

February 2024

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MAGAZINE

Creative zones

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Bluey mini
magazine inside!



Part 2
SUMMER
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26-PAGE
CLEANING
GUIDE

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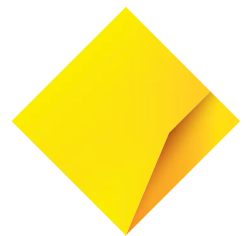


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FOR YOUR FREE
BLUE MINI MAG



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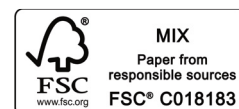
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BRUSHLESS STEEL DECK LAWN MOWER

Editor's letter Welcome!



Unless you've been living under a rock, you may have caught wind of a blockbuster, locally made television show titled *Bluey*. You'll note I am not calling it a children's program, and this is because there's a fair whack of adult fans out there who are very happy to be within earshot of the show, if not joining the kids in front of the telly.

My lot missed the *Bluey* bus, being a little older when it launched. But an episode set

at "Hammerbarn" (series 2, episode 2) was obligatory viewing, and it should tickle everyone who spends time in the aisles – and browsing the paint section – at Bunnings.

This issue is full of ideas for children's rooms, teen study spaces and adult work-from-home set-ups – along with a blueprint for a family games day to see the holidays out. The mag team couldn't resist placing a couple of friendly gnomes in our pages this month, and we've included a special *Bluey* activity book to smooth the back-to-school journey. You'll find it on page 38. Meanwhile, there's a tonne of fun coming up in-store (see workshop details page 12).

We are also equipping you with all the info you need to complete the room refresh we kicked off last issue: part two of our Cleaning Special begins on page 51. Stick the kids in front of *Bluey* and get stuck in.

Enjoy!

Lisa

JOIN THE FUN!

These four *Bluey* gnomes, Meditation, Tony, Hecuba and Jeremy, are hidden throughout the magazine. Can you find them all?



If you'd like one of these guys in your garden, keep tabs on our social media channels for updates!

MAKE IT YOURS CURVY CABINET

"I created the bedside table of my dreams using MDF, PVC pipe and Corflute"

**BUNNINGS WORKSHOP COMMUNITY
MEMBER CHERYL @OURCOUNTRYCOAST**



CustomWood 1200mm x 450mm x 12mm standard **MDF panel**, \$17.50, I/N: 0590089*. Holman 50mm **PVC pipe**, \$24.62/3m, I/N: 4770351. Project Panel 'Corflute' 900mm x 600mm x 3mm **plastic sheet** in White, \$6, I/N: 0390160. Some products are not available at all Bunnings stores, but may be ordered.

Bedside table build Cheryl really wanted a bedside table to contain all her bits and pieces while leaving the top clutter-free. After baulking at the price of off-the-shelf cabinets, she decided to DIY. Project materials came in at about \$60; tools used included a circular saw to cut the MDF, a jigsaw for the curves, a hacksaw for the PVC pipe and a utility knife for the Corflute (corrugated plastic). The cabinet was glued and screwed together, but Cheryl recommends priming and painting it before assembly, and using a foam roller for a textured finish. Visit bunnings.com.au/DIY-arched-cabinet to see more of this project. ▶

Do you have a craft/DIY project or hack to share with us?

Email your project details and images (with 'DIY project' in the subject line) to submissions@bunnings.com.au

PLANT PARENT

On the trail of a lively ivy

Plant name: Jerry

Plant parent: Sam

Climate: A Sydney bathroom

What's in your pot?

Pothos/devil's ivy.

How long have you been caring for your plant?

Around four years.

Where did you get it?

Bunnings, of course!

Where does it live? Jerry lives on a shelf in my bathroom right above the shower.

Best feature? Trailing tendrils and deep-green leaves.

Care regimen? Jerry is pretty low maintenance, I just water him when the soil dries out (two to three times a week in summer; weekly in winter).

Secret hacks? I credit Jerry's good health to two things. I think the bathroom's humidity helps him grow super fast and keeps his leaves glossy. And he gets serenaded daily when people shower, which keeps him in good spirits!

A surprising fact about the plant? Although I recently repotted Jerry, almost all of this foliage grew in a very small pot – you don't need a large container to get a magnificent devil's ivy!



CLEANING HACK

The big gripe

Flying foxes are big bats... which means big splats! Sarah, from Qld, uses Chemtech brick, tile and paver cleaner, along with Ryobi's power scrubber or steel wool, to remove bat

droppings from surfaces like walls and pool surrounds*. Thanks for the tip!



Chemtech brick, tile and paver cleaner, \$47.99/5L, I/N: 0964686

Ryobi 'ONE+' 18V compact power scrubber, \$139/skin only (battery and charger sold separately), I/N: 0206633



Do you have a clever cleaning hack to share with us? See below for details...

Email your tips and images (with 'cleaning hack' in the subject line) to submissions@bunnings.com.au

Some products are not available at all Bunnings stores, but may be ordered.

BUNNINGS MARKETPLACE

Put the romance into Valentine's Day with a home movie set-up to swoon over



▲ Brateck 'Economy' 80" tripod projector screen in Black, I/N: 0538933* (limited stock available)



▲ Devanti wi-fi USB mini projector, I/N: 0363087*



▲ Intex pull-out inflatable chair/bed in Charcoal Grey, I/N: 0503847*



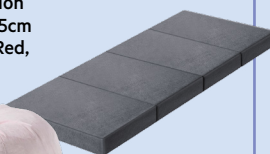
▲ Accessorize Bedroom Collection 'Roseto' 45cm x 45cm filled cushion in Red, I/N: 0501395*



▲ EuroChef classic popcorn machine, I/N: 0432907*



▲ Ivory & Deene 'Pierre' faux fur beanbag in Blush Pink, I/N: 0386590*



▲ Starry Eucalypt 4 fold folding mattress in Grey, I/N: 0431724*



▲ Lemon & Lime 5.5L glass drink dispenser on stand with diffuser insert, I/N: 0367626*



▲ Todo 250W frozen yoghurt/dessert maker in Red, I/N: 0247232*

▲ This product is available to buy online only and is sold and delivered by a Bunnings Marketplace Trusted Seller. Not all items are available in all states and territories. *Delivery charges may apply. ▶

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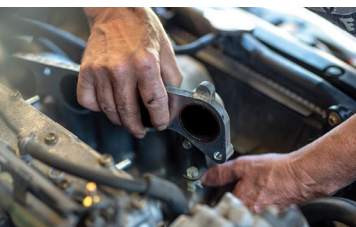
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desolvit.com.au

February IN THE GARDEN

Leafy decor, Valentine's gift ideas and cool-season vegies to plant now

Dress up an outdoor table with a shallow ceramic or terracotta bowl filled with a variety of succulents planted in a cacti and succulent potting mix.

Feed citrus with a pelletised citrus-specific fertiliser and top up mulch. Check for scale and other sap-sucking pests and treat if sighted.

On Valentine's Day, present loved ones with potted flowers that will keep on giving, such as a perfumed rose, a pot of lavender or Endless Summer hydrangeas. Pair with a high-potassium fertiliser for strong growth and flowering.

Want topiary without the hassle? Fill a large pot with premium potting mix,

position a cone frame in the centre and plant a couple of climbing plants like star jasmine or ivy. They will grow to eventually cover the framework.

In the vegie gardens of cooler regions, now is the time to plant brassicas (a bit later in warmer zones). Prepare a spot in full

sun with compost-enriched and well-draining soil for the following favourites. **Cauliflower** Available with white, green or purple flowerheads. **Broccoli** Choose from single-head or sprouting varieties. **Cabbage** Allow 40-70cm between plants, depending on the variety.



After applying fertiliser near edible plants, delay harvesting for a few days and rinse well before cooking and eating. If using products to deal with pests, diseases or weeds, or when handling compost or mulch, read the label, follow instructions and wear gloves, a mask and protective gear. Store all garden chemicals and products out of reach of children and pets.



Scan the QR code
For more on what to do in the garden during February, go to bunnings.com.au/gardencorner

YEAR OF THE DRAGON

Good vibes

Celebrate Chinese (or Lunar) New Year by giving friends and family a living symbol of luck – these plants are associated with prosperity, health and happiness

1 LUCKY BAMBOO (*Dracaena sanderiana*) It's said the more stalks this mini 'bamboo' has, the luckier it is.

2 JADE PLANT (*Crassula ovata*) Also called the money tree, this succulent has fleshy leaves and thick branches.

3 CUMQUAT (*Citrus japonica*) With bright orange fruit, cumquat and other citrus are perfect for pots.

4 CHINESE MONEY PLANT (*Pilea peperomioides*) A popular indoor plant with coin-shaped leaves.

5 ANTHURIUM (*Anthurium andraeanum*) An easy-care plant with vibrant, glossy and red heart-shaped flowers.

TOOL OF THE MONTH

This cordless sliding mitre saw from Ozito offers precise angled cuts for jobs around the home and workplace, like making frames, trimming skirting boards and more. ♦



Ozito 'PXC' sliding mitre saw, \$399/skin only (battery and charger sold separately), I/N: 0504085. Some products are not available at all Bunnings stores, but may be ordered.

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CSR

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

Swatch showcase



If you live in Melbourne and happened to visit the

Moorabbin store paint desk around 2006, there's a chance the colour you chose for your home update has made its way into a significant artwork. Over a 12 month period during 2006 and 2007, Bunnings paint specialist – and artist – Dan Moynihan created duplicates of the paint orders he processed while on his day job, adding one piece of missing information: a swipe of the colour itself. When opening a paint tin for a customer to approve, he added a dab to his duplicate label to create a swatch. Gathered en masse in the final artwork, the labels are presented in chronological order.

"They're quite beautiful to look at – and it was an interesting way to document my time on the job," says Dan. "Colour trends now are completely different." The massive work has already been shown in a couple of galleries and now has a permanent home in The Wesfarmers Collection @wesfarmersarts.



FREE BLUEY-THEMED D.I.Y. WORKSHOPS FOR KIDS!



Do your littlies adore *Bluey*? Let them get creative at *Bluey*-themed kids D.I.Y. workshops running nationally every weekend in February. There are four unique craft projects with a new Hammerbarn badge for attendees to collect each weekend.

For details, see bunnings.com.au/kids-diy-bluey-workshops or contact your local Bunnings – then head in store to get messy!



Scan to book a workshop online

IN MY TROLLEY

Sabine, NSW,

WALKS US DOWN THE AISLE



ABOVE Northcote Pottery 'Emmerson' 100cm trough in White, \$169, I/N: 0286021. Some products are not available at all Bunnings stores, but may be ordered.

During a recent visit to her local store at Lake Haven on the NSW Central Coast, Sabine was taken with this large white trough from Northcote Pottery. "I liked the clean lines and matt, modern look," says Sabine. She filled the planter with herbs also bought from Bunnings, including mint, oregano, chives, basil, chillies and parsley. Talk about a perfect pairing! What's cooking, good looking?

Do you have a best buy from Bunnings to share with us?

Email your product details and images (with 'In my trolley' in the subject line) to submissions@bunnings.com.au

WANT NOT, WASTE NOT

When your fruit bowl looks like it's about to take a turn, don't empty it into the compost or bin! Instead, save the contents for a rainy day. Rinse, dry and cut your overripe fruit, put in airtight zip-lock bags or reusable plastic containers, label and date before popping them into the freezer*. Then whip them out whenever you crave homemade banana bread or need berries for your smoothies. ♦



*Storage life may vary for different fruits.

Photography (Swatch Showcase) Andrew Curtis/courtesy of the artist and Tolarno Galleries, (fruit) Getty Images.

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Tired of looking at your rusted metal furniture? Don't buy new, fix-it and rejuvenate rusted metal with Dulux Metalshield's 2 step system.

Dulux Metalshield Rust Primer and Dulux Metalshield Rust Defence offer a simple 2 step system to upcycling your rusted metal surfaces.

The unique 2-in-1 Dulux Metalshield Rust Primer will stop and block rust with fast dry technology that can be recoated in just 1 hour. Follow this with 2 coats of Dulux Metalshield Rust Defence, which is tintable to 1000's of Dulux colours and will leave your metal surfaces looking brand new.

This advanced technology is suitable for all common metals, taking the guess work out of knowing which metal surface you have. Dulux Metalshield is so easy to use, you will complete your project in just one day! So before you throw out your old rusted furniture and buy 'new', fix-it with Dulux Metalshield Rust Primer and Dulux Metalshield Rust Defence for a lasting finish you'll love.

To find out more, speak to a Bunnings team member.

Fix your rusted metal in just 2 steps!



Step 1

Remove any loose rust by sanding. Then apply Dulux Metalshield Rust Primer and wait 1 hour to dry.



Step 2

Apply 2 coats of Dulux Metalshield Rust Defence, allowing 1 hour dry time between coats.



**VIEW OUR
DULUX METALSHIELD RANGE**

*Dulux, Worth doing, worth Dulux and Metalshield are registered trade marks, Rust Primer and Rust Defence are trade marks of DuluxGroup (Australia) Pty Ltd.



STYLE FILE

BRING A WELCOME
COOL CHANGE TO
YOUR OUTDOOR
LIVING SPACE

1 Mimosa 'Malibu' daybed, \$639, I/N: 0256332. 2 Succulent plants in Northcote Pottery 'Italian' 25cm terracotta bowl, \$14.28, I/N: 2833044 (plants sold separately). 3 Outermark 75L ice box cooler in Khaki, \$189, I/N: 0456511. 4 Lotus Collection 390mm x 300mm extra large woven planter in Natural, \$45, I/N: 0426671. 5 Marquee 1.8m x 1.5m recycled striped picnic rug in Green, \$29.95, I/N: 0362763. 6 Marquee 2m beach umbrella in Agret, \$39.90, I/N: 0442764. 7 Bestway H2OGO! 'Tropical Palms' 119cm inflatable swim ring in Blue, \$13, I/N: 0276650. 8 Mojo 45cm cushion covers, \$7.15 each: 'Marrakesh' in Blue, I/N: 0285768, and 'Leaf', I/N: 0217882, and 45cm cushion inserts, \$11.10 each, I/N: 3192728. 9 Northcote Pottery 'Odessa' 20cm x 20cm pot in White Wash, \$39.50, I/N: 0430396. 10 Green Lane 'Grand Arch' 1350mm x 950mm wall mirror, \$299, I/N: 0360478 (available in select stores only). 11 Marquee 'Verna' chair in Coconut Milk, \$39, I/N: 0352938. 12 Waxworks ceramic citronella candle in Cream, \$10.34, I/N: 0507682. 13 Northcote Pottery 'Dwarf Fishing' 22cm garden statue, \$19.52, I/N: 0356480. 14 Bayliss 'Dura' 290cm x 200cm jute rug, \$361, I/N: 6670900. Some products are not available at all Bunnings stores, but may be ordered. ◆

Let Mitsubishi Motors Business Advantage handle the admin associated with work vehicles, so you can focus on running your business

On the move

Give your small business a boost with Mitsubishi Motors Business Advantage

Whether you're a tradie with a tray full of tools, or a salesperson racking up the Ks, a good car or truck is more than just a means of getting from A to B.

A reliable vehicle – or fleet of vehicles – is essential for meeting clients and delivering promised services, on time and in a professional manner. In short, prioritising quality vehicles can be essential to, and a signal of, a successful business. **Mitsubishi Motors Business Advantage® (MMBA)** is the small business fleet solution to keep your business moving (eligibility criteria applies).

KEEP YOUR CASH

A new car normally means your bank balance taking a big hit. As an alternative to an outright purchase, MMBA means no cash payment upfront and spreads the financial load across monthly payments,

leaving your emergency funds for emergencies – or for investing in other areas of your business.

Not only that, MMBA gives you access to National Fleet Pricing – whether you're a one-man band or running a carpark full of vehicles.

DELEGATE THE PAPERWORK

MMBA helps you access the vehicles and also manage them, with the option to outsource some or all of your fleet admin*. You pay one single monthly invoice, which can then cover most running costs including registration and CTP renewals, services and maintenance, roadside assistance, replacement tyres, and even fuel costs and tolls. For a busy small business owner, it's a useful way to strike a tonne of admin off your to-do list, depending on the options you select, leaving you to concentrate on the parts of your business that make you money.

UPGRADE YOUR VEHICLE

One of the benefits of MMBA's flexible leasing terms is being able to upgrade your vehicle after each term period. Choose the length of your contract, from 24 to 60 months, then at the end of that period, decide whether to extend the contract on your loyal steed or thank it for its service and move on to a new model that better serves your business.



For more information on the Mitsubishi Motors Business Advantage program, scan this QR code.

mitsubishi-motors.com.au/mmba

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*Fees and charges can include vehicle finance, stamp duty, on road costs, fuel management, replacement tyres, scheduled servicing and maintenance, re-registration over the period of the lease, 24-hour roadside assistance, accident management services, toll and infringement management. Lease terms are subject to a maximum limit of 200,000 kilometres over the period of the lease.

KIDS' OWN ZONES

SET UP A SPACE FOR EVERY STAGE
OF CHILDHOOD, FROM TODDLER
TO TEEN AND IN BETWEEN

Photography BRIGID ARNOTT

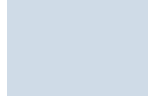
Styling SAMANTHA POINTON



ROOM PALETTE



Dulux Jemima



Dulux Sea Breeze Half



Superfresco Easy
'Country Tartan'
52cm wallpaper in
Silver, \$89.80/10m,
I/N: 0106455

Put on your creative cap and design a space where your child can work, rest and play. Come up with a palette that suits their age and uses their fave colours, then get out the rollers and start the room revamp with the transformative power of paint.

A desk is a must, whether they wield crayons or wrangle calculus regularly, and this is where you can go DIY. With a timber panel and stayed angle brackets or furniture legs, you can install a work surface customised to fit the space. Wall shelves and hanging rails free up the floorplan, double as storage and display, and have the added bonus of being out of reach of untidy little hands! A good-quality floor rug offers a soft space to sprawl on the floor to play, while a comfy chair is great for supervising or story-reading adults. For older kids, it is their spot to kick back or a guest chair for when you are allowed into their sanctum!

Involve the kids in all the fun bits and they will feel like it really is their own little haven within the home. ▶

TINY TOTS

Get the foundations right and a toddler's room will serve them well into kindy and beyond. Think height-adjustable bench space, easy-clean surfaces and washable materials, a big rug for romping, a chair for cuddling and lots (and lots) of toy storage.

LEFT Montgomery 1200mm x 90mm x 35mm **photo shelves** in Matt White, \$17.71 each, I/N: 0232218. Boyle 'Sunshine' 120cm x 74cm removable **wall decal**, \$14.98, I/N: 0509293. DIY wall bench made using Specrite 2200mm x 600mm x 26mm multi-use pine **panel**, \$89, I/N: 0419616, and Carinya 400mm x 350mm x 25mm x 3.5mm stayed straight **brackets** in White, \$11.88 each, I/N: 3970220. Floor Select 'Kashmir' 1380mm x 240mm x 8mm laminate **flooring** in Oak, \$25/sqm (\$67.25/2.69sqm), I/N: 0336752 (used throughout). See following page for other product details. Some products are not available at all Bunnings stores, but may be ordered.



SMALL WONDERS

Create a room to soothe and stimulate, so a truck-smashing toddler or play-acting preschooler can burn energy, then settle down for story or nap time. A wall-fixed bench with a DIY rail is a great set-up for arts and crafts – and the recycled tins help to keep it all tidy.



Keep in mind...

- Our rooms are set up for inspiration only. Always assess safety when planning your child's room. For example: secure furniture to walls with appropriate fasteners to avoid the risk of them toppling over; position climbable objects or furniture away from windows; avoid floor-length or reachable curtains in young children's rooms and ensure blind and curtain cords are secured at least 1600mm above the floor.
- Check house plants are not toxic to humans or pets and place out of the reach of small children.
- Never leave small children unattended with pets.
- For further information on child safety in and around the home, visit kidsafe.com.au.
- Before drilling into walls, use a studfinder to check for wiring and pipework, and turn off the power while working. Fix wall bench brackets into the studs of a plasterboard wall.
- Our DIY desks are not suitable for standing on.
- When spray-painting, wear a mask and gloves and work outside or in a well-ventilated area, covering surrounding areas with a drop sheet to avoid overspray.

TOP LEFT Art supplies rack made using Barelli 'Ambiente' 900mm single **towel rail** in Matt Black, \$36.62, I/N: 0108343, and recycled Marquee steel citronella candle **tins**, \$3.66 each, in White, I/N: 0459569, Blue, I/N: 0459570, and Yellow, I/N: 0459568; **S hooks**, for similar try Taskmaster 150mm x 45mm x 5mm **S hooks** in Black, \$4.30/each pack of 4, I/N: 0212439. ABOVE Superfresco Easy 'Country Tartan' 52cm **wallpaper** in Silver, \$89.80/10m, I/N: 0106455 (limited stock, available online). ▲ ELiving Furniture 'Dome' **sideboard** in White, I/N: 0375567. LEFT (On wall bench) Bluey 'Jeremy Hammerbarn' 28cm x 14cm **garden gnome**. Verve 'Alston' **task lamp** in Mountain Spring, \$44.18, I/N: 0420030 (globe sold separately). Magic Living 'Cloud' silicone **nightlight**, \$28.05, I/N: 0341839. ▲ ArtissIn 'Cupcake' **foot stool** in Black, set of 2, I/N: 0361435, and White, set of 2, I/N: 0361448 (available from February). ▲ Artiss 'Anne' **armchair** in Beige, I/N: 0190062 (available from February). ▲ ArtissIn 'Mushroom' 71cm large plastic **coffee table** in Pink, I/N: 0352281. Bayliss 'Cortina' 290cm x 200cm wool **pot** in Stone, \$45, I/N: 0430420. All plants sold separately. ▲ Artiss 'Accent' high back velvet **armchair** in Pink, I/N: 0385297. Lugna 2048mm x 580mm x 450mm **cabinet shells**, \$233.33 each, I/N: 0430508*, 2045mm x 450mm x 16mm left hand **door**, \$81.24, I/N: 0430801*, and right hand **door**, \$81.24, I/N: 0430792*, all in White, and 768mm x 600mm x 580mm 3 drawer **storage cabinet** in Mist, \$456.10, I/N: 0525720*. SpecRite 2200mm x 600mm x 26mm beech laminated **panel**, \$159, I/N: 8330041* (used as a desktop). The Rug Republic 'Roma' 230cm x 160m semi twisted wool **rug** in White, \$479, I/N: 0117815*. See following pages for other product details. Some products are not available at all Bunnings stores, but may be ordered.

▲ This product is available to buy online only and is sold and delivered by a Bunnings Marketplace Trusted Seller. Not all items are available in all states and territories. Delivery charges may apply.

Suggest your teen nurtures an indoor plant – following the progress of a fast-growing ivy can be rewarding and encourage an interest in nature

TWEEN DREAM

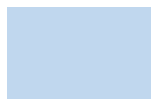
Moving from primary school to high school is a big deal and marks a shift in interests and activities. Fun and bright can still work, but you'll need to up the storage... And maybe accommodate a new hobby or two. ▶



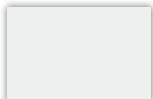
ROOM PALETTE



Dulux Scampi



Dulux
Breezy Half



Taubmans Tradex
Ceiling White



ABOVE Shelf made using Claymark 235mm x 19mm premium DAR **pine**, \$33.20/1.8m, I/N: 8401473, and Carinya 'Deco' 185mm x 185mm x 40mm x 6mm lipped angle **brackets** in Black, \$7.95 each, I/N: 0048934. **Pop clock** made using Boyle 290mm x 210mm wooden rectangle **placemat**, \$1.98, I/N: 0440423, 'Pop' wooden **craft sticks**, \$2.75/pack of 150, I/N: 0440451, and plywood **number set**, \$4.50/pack of 50, I/N: 0440430, see right for DIY instructions. Bluey 'Tony Hammerbarn' 28cm x 14cm **garden gnome**. BELOW Masonite 1220mm x 915mm x 4.8mm **pegboard**, \$32, I/N: 0243224, painted in Dulux 'Wash&Wear' low sheen interior **paint** in Scampi, \$59.50/1L, I/N: 1370187. Flexi Storage 85mm 1 runner wire **basket**, \$9.16, I/N: 2590157, and 1 runner half width wire **basket**, \$8, I/N: 2583976, both in White, painted with Dulux 'Duramax' **spray paint** in Gloss Dandelion Yellow, \$15.50/340g, I/N: 1400697. All other products, stylist's own. Some products are not available at all Bunnings stores, but may be ordered.



POP CLOCK

Create a colourful custom clock for your tween with DIY dye and craft pop sticks

Tools & materials

- Saucepan
- Sieve or colander
- 500ml glass jars
- Rubber gloves
- Wire rack
- Ruler and pencil
- Handsaw
- Microfibre cloth
- Mini roller with tray
- Drill with suitable bit
- Vegetables and spices
- Craft pop sticks
- Paper towel
- 290mm x 210mm x 2.5mm craft placemat
- 180-grit abrasive paper
- Low-sheen acrylic paint in White
- Clock mechanism (available from craft stores)
- Timber adhesive
- Craft numbers

1 To make natural dye, put 1 cup of chopped veg material in a saucepan with two cups of water. We used: red cabbage for purple, beetroot for red, spinach for green, 2 tbsp ground turmeric for yellow, and carrot with 1 tbsp ground paprika for orange. Simmer for one hour, then cool.

2 When cool, strain each dye into a 500ml glass jar about 130mm high, discarding solids. Submerge 8-10 standard 115mm x 10mm timber pop sticks in dye and leave for 48 hours. Wearing gloves, remove sticks and spread out on a wire rack covered in paper towel to dry. We dyed 46 sticks in total.

3 Measure and mark the placemat and cut with a handsaw to create a 210mm x 210mm square for the clock board. Sand the cut edge smooth with 180-grit abrasive paper and wipe away sanding dust. Using a mini roller, apply a coat of low-sheen white acrylic paint to the clock face side, then leave to dry.

4 Mark the centre on the back of the board, and drill a hole for the clock mechanism according to the manufacturer's instructions. Working in quadrants, arrange 11 pop sticks vertically and 12 horizontally. When happy with the arrangement, apply a bead of adhesive to the back of each stick and attach to the clock board; leave to set. Glue wooden craft numbers in position; leave to set. Install the clock mechanism.

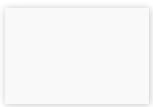


TEEN RETREAT

When the homework starts to kick in, set up a customised study nook to support good habits. We used a DIY timber panel and steel leg set for this desk, paired with an ergonomic chair. Keep this space clutter- and- distraction free. ▶

See following pages
for product details

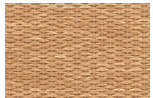
ROOM PALETTE



Dulux White
Polar Quarter



Dulux Garden Pond



Natural weave



Prepanel 2700mm x 600mm x 21mm timber slat **wall panels**, \$99 each, I/N: 0455959 (in store only). **Shelving unit**, for similar try Pinnacle 1930mm x 1220mm x 460mm 6 tier adjustable **shelving unit** in Chrome, \$190, I/N: 0437241. (On unit) **English ivy** in Northcote Pottery 'Wyatt' 17cm x 17cm **pot** in Brick, \$15.98, I/N: 0430323, 'Alure' 16cm **pot** in Forest, \$17.98, I/N: 0263143, 'Virgo' 18cm **pot** in Forest, \$19.98, I/N: 0263152, and 'Brodie' 17cm x 16cm **pot** in White, \$17.98, I/N: 0430408. Flexi Storage Living square felt **baskets** in Light Grey, \$9.27/set of 3, I/N: 0438571. **Hoya vine** in Eden 'Etch' 13.5cm indoor concrete **planter** in Earth, \$16, I/N: 0434890. **Hoya vine** in Elho 'Vibes' 16cm indoor plant **pot** in White, \$22, I/N: 0265627. **Syngonium** in Borrallheira 'Palm' 20cm indoor plant **pot** in Sand, \$27.98, I/N: 0428713. **Devil's ivy** in Northcote Pottery 'Toby' 31cm x 28cm **pot** in Stone, \$45, I/N: 0430420. **Desk** made using Specrite 2200mm x 600mm x 26mm multi use pine **panel**, \$89, I/N: 0419616*. Home Design 'Svelte' **desk lamp** in Green, \$109, I/N: 0435949 (globe sold separately). **Curtain**, for similar try Windoware 'Coco' 213cm x 120cm sheer rod pocket **curtain** in White, \$9.95, I/N: 0496462. Bayliss 'Dura' 290cm x 200cm jute **rug**, \$361, I/N: 6670900. ▲ ELiving Furniture 'Bradley' corner modular **sofa** piece, I/N: 0402941. **Golden cane palm**. All plants sold separately. All other products, stylist's own. Some products are not available at all Bunnings stores, but may be ordered.

▲ This product is available to buy online only and is sold and delivered by a Bunnings Marketplace Trusted Seller. Not all items are available in all states and territories. Delivery charges may apply.

*Timbers vary by state and territory; contact your local store for further information.

Chill-out
activity

MINI ZEN GARDEN

A 'little' gardening break can help focus the mind. We painted a **memory box** white, then filled it with **river sand**, an **air plant**, a **succulent** and **pebbles**. The rake is made from **hobby dowel** (5mm for the handle, 9.5mm for the head) with **toothpick** tines, but this requires cutting, clamping and drilling, so adults should closely supervise. After predrilling shallow holes for the tines and handle, fix in place with **timber adhesive** and leave to dry. ♦

(On windowsill) **Parsley** and **mint** in Northcote Pottery 'Italian' 13cm terracotta **pots**, \$2.86 each, I/N: 0044335, and 13cm **saucers**, \$3.19 each, I/N: 0044339, both in Antique (plants sold separately). All other products, stylist's own.



Before

COLOUR THEORY

NEW PAINT AND A COUPLE OF KEY UPGRADES TAKE YEARS OFF THIS MELBOURNE KITCHEN

Words SHELLEY TUSTIN Photography ALEX REINDERS
Styling SHARON BEGG

A lot has changed since the early 2000s. While no-one would consider Bunnings Workshop community member Rhys (@rhys_fitzgerald) and fiancée Kenya's Melbourne home old, some of its features – mustard walls, outmoded handles and peach kitchen, to name a few – date-stamped it most unflatteringly. "It just needed a bit of a refresher," says Rhys. The couple has been methodically working through the home, with Kenya, a fashion designer,

taking the lead on looks, while Rhys, a construction manager with a background in carpentry, brings their vision to life.

The kitchen reno began with altering the cabinets slightly to fit a too-big fridge, then snowballed, says Rhys: "We sort of got carried away and ended up changing everything!" A few cost-effective alterations have made an enormous difference; cabinets were turned from dirty peach to chic charcoal grey, a dated glass splashback made way for tiles, and new handles were the icing on the cake.



DREAM IT ◆ DIY RENOVATION

LEFT Taskmaster 128mm hollow **T handles** in Matt Black, \$2.80 each, I/N: 0132811. All other products, stylist's own. Some products are not available at all Bunnings stores, but may be ordered.



Glass half full

Though he had visions of broken glass shards, removing the old teal glass splashback turned out to be a breeze, says Rhys: "It was just a case of cutting the silicone and pulling it off. It came off smoothly in two solid pieces." Rhys then turned his hand to tiling – a task he'd never tackled before, but one made simpler by their choice of tiles. "The tiles are about 250mm x 80mm, which was probably the easiest size to work with," he says. They also have a slightly textured, handmade finish. "If it's not perfectly level or plumb, you can sort of get away with it!" says Rhys. He finished the job with black tile trim, chosen to match the charcoal grout.

Black out

The most impactful change came from recolouring the cabinets, taking them from grubby peach to dramatically dark charcoal. Rhys and Kenya used the Dulux Renovation Range products to make the change, choosing Dulux Domino, a deep charcoal with a blue undertone. Rhys removed all the cabinet doors for a neater finish (and to save masking the hinges), laying them out on the garage floor to paint. A few coats later, the space is virtually unrecognisable. Even better, the granite benchtops, which the couple hated passionately before, look stunning against the blue-toned black, saving them an expensive job. "We were sure we were going to rip them off, but now we've painted, we're pretty happy with them," says Rhys.

Handle this

Swapping out handles is one of the easiest ways to change the look of a kitchen, as well as the feel – literally. Rhys says the old handles were oddly asymmetrical and

uncomfortable to use. "They looked pretty horrible, and they felt horrible to hold as well," he says. On the bright side, they were a standard size, making it easy to remove them and fit new door hardware – sleek black T handles – into the old screw holes. They form the finishing touch to a coherent scheme that should stand the test of time. ◆




Rhys is thrilled that fiancée Kenya's choice of cabinetry colour complements the dark tones in their existing natural granite benchtop

Scan the QR code



Find this project and more kitchen upcycles:
bunnings.com.au/charcoal-kitchen-facelift

PLAN IT  HARD AT WORK

FULL FOCUS

SET UP YOUR HOME OFFICE FOR
HEALTH AND PRODUCTIVITY
WITH THESE TOP TIPS

Words SHELLEY TUSTIN



RIGHT Surround yourself with calm colours, such as blues, greens and neutral tones, plus include natural materials, like timber and rattan, for an organic feel



“Take regular breaks from your desk and include movement out of your chair during the day”

Hayley McLennan, HR consultant

Do you spend more time procrastinating than on the job? Or are you constantly uncomfortable? Then perhaps your home office is working against you. Give yourself a hard deadline to get things sorted and use these design ideas and strategies to ensure you work effectively from home.

Set up your space

It may seem obvious, but the first step is to set up a designated workspace. You need a proper desk (not the dining table), ideally removed from the most chaotic zones of your home. This will help you engage your brain in work mode – when you sit at your desk, it's time to get serious. You needn't declutter your space into

sterility – just ensure you're not sharing the work zone with domestic debris.

Interior designer Ania Forster of Zephyr + Stone (zephyrandstone.com.au) compares a tidy desk with adding white space in interior design. “It's the empty space between other items that creates balance, and is essential to maximise productivity,” she says. Ania also recommends a mix of storage: drawers, shelves and cupboards. “If integrating storage, consider a space inside a deep cupboard to keep your printer, so it doesn't take up precious real estate on your desk,” she adds.

Look after your health

An ergonomic set-up is essential, as slumping over a desk will eventually take a decidedly painful toll, says HR consultant Hayley McLennan ▶

(hayleymclennanconsulting.com). "This is a no-brainer but often gets missed or there is complacency," says Hayley McLennan. Employers ought to provide a checklist of best practice standards, she says, which includes adjustable and supportive chairs and screens at the right height (the top of the screen should be at eye level).

Ania Forster offers this guidance: "Your desk size will be dictated by how you work. Larger monitors will require a deeper desktop – 700-750mm works well. If you have a laptop, you can get away with a narrower desktop – 600mm or so. Ensure you leave enough elbow room to make it comfortable – 1200mm is ample and anything wider will feel even better."

A stuffy space can make you feel sleepy. To avoid the 3pm droop,

Hayley says a well-aired room, with the ability to open a window, is best. If your space is a challenge to ventilate, an air purifier could be a good investment.

Materials matter

Colour psychology is a common consideration in commercial office design and it should be at home, too. Generally, blue is calming, with navy promoting a feeling of trust (great if you're meeting with clients!). Yellow is invigorating and sparks creativity, although is perhaps better in small doses. "Rather than bold or bright colours, I recommend neutral, muted and calming colour tones," says Ania. "Natural materials such as timber and stone also add an organic and grounding feel to any space." In

OFFICE WELLNESS

- **Include plants.** They act as natural air purifiers and bring nature into the space, creating a sense of calm. Try peace lilies, spider plants and Boston ferns.
- **Keep hydrated.** Invest in a SodaStream or pretty water carafe and glass to put some sparkle into your drink breaks.

fact, studies have suggested that biophilic elements, such as woodgrain, can actually lower stress.

"A space flooded with natural light will feel more spacious and inviting, which helps promote productivity," says Ania. "Positioning a desk so it has a view into a garden or greenery also creates a more calming atmosphere, which will help you focus and be more efficient." Ideally, face the window to avoid glare on your screen and add a desk lamp for back-up illumination.

Draw the line

Distractions can pop up from both professional and domestic sources. Whether hungry children, constant pings from the office or the school WhatsApp group, they can easily disrupt workflow. "While some degree of interruption is inevitable, try to minimise distractions as best as you can," suggests Hayley. "Tell your household when you are working, turn off notifications when engaged in certain tasks and update your status on communication tools, such as Slack or Teams, so there is transparency on your availability."

The hardest part about working from home can be knowing when to stop. "People tend to work more when there is no separation between work and home life, so it's important to create a way to close off from the work day," says Hayley. "Shut down the computer, put your out-of-office notification on and communicate with your team to indicate when work has finished for the day." And if you can literally shut the door on your office space, then do so. ♦



ABOVE Brilliant 'Orson' 35cm classic industrial style DIY **pendant light** in Matt Black, \$110, I/N: 0277231 (globe sold separately). **Heart-leaf philodendron** and **rubber plants**. Flexi Storage 'Decorative Shelving' 240mm x 38mm **floating shelf** in Oak: \$24.19/600mm, I/N: 2583899, and \$31/900mm, I/N: 2583900. Floor Select 305mm x 305mm x 6mm **cork tile** in Natural, \$17.98/pack of 6, I/N: 6690244 (used as a pinboard). Verve Design 'Chloe' **desk lamp** in White, \$54.48, I/N: 0271540 (globe sold separately). All other products, stylist's own. Some products are not available at all Bunnings stores, but may be ordered.



Cool comfort

Create a barrier that repels the heat, leaving your home interior cool and comfortable with Earthwool® insulation

Summer is at its height and the temperatures are brutal. Worse, with the airconditioner running overtime, your energy bills are rising as high as the mercury. Installing or upgrading your home's insulation is a great way to beat the heat and reduce your energy usage, taking the pain out of your electricity bill and benefiting the environment. And with **Earthwool®** insulation, you've got a premium insulation product you can install yourself!

DIY COMFORT

Summer is a prime time for DIY projects, with plenty of opportunities for home improvement. Why not choose a project that will make your home more comfortable through the sweatiest months – and beyond, into the chill of winter? Earthwool R2.5 Wall batts and Earthwool R4.0 Ceiling batts are effortless to work with, boasting an ultra-soft finish and a smooth surface on both sides, making them easier to cut, simpler to handle and less dusty. Earthwool Multi-Use Roll does double duty, designed as a top-up for existing ceiling insulation, or a high thermal

performance solution for walls. Easy to roll out, it's the ideal upgrade to ensure your home's comfort, year round.

PLAY IT SAFE

Part of what makes Earthwool so DIY friendly is its composition. Earthwool is made with up to 80 per cent recycled glass. So next time you toss an empty bottle into a recycling bin, Earthwool can help it to come back as insulation.

It has no added formaldehyde or dyes (thanks to ECOSE® Technology, Earthwool's bio-based binder) and Earthwool's range of insulation is free from any of the Declare® Red List materials as well as certified to the highest Eurofins Gold Standard for indoor air comfort.

SIMPLY THE BEST

The benefits of insulation for controlling your home's climate are clear – and if you're going to do it, then it pays to do it right, with a premium-quality product. Earthwool products are non-combustible and offer high thermal performance, acting as a buffer between your home and the extreme heat (or cold) of the outdoors. But not only that, they also offer impressive acoustic benefits, absorbing sound between rooms, and between you and the neighbours. It all adds up to a safer, quieter, cooler and cheaper-to-run home for you and your family.



- 1 Earthwool R4 1160mm x 430mm x 195mm **ceiling batt**, \$76/pack of 15, I/N: 0300790.
- 2 Earthwool R4 1160mm x 580mm x 195mm **ceiling batt**, \$101/pack of 15, I/N: 0300792.
- 3 Earthwool R2.0 430mm **multi-use roll**, \$54, I/N: 0810890. 4 Earthwool R2.0 580mm **multi-use roll**, \$69, I/N: 0810891.
- 5 Earthwool 'SoundShield' R2.5 1160mm x 430mm x 90mm **wall batt**, \$84/pack of 14, I/N: 0810602. 6 Earthwool 'SoundShield' R2.5 1160mm x 580mm x 90mm **wall batt**, \$115/pack of 14, I/N: 0810603.



To find out more information about the Earthwool® insulation range, scan this QR code.

EARTHWOOL®
the feel good glasswool insulation

Elevate your outdoors

Want to maximise the potential of your outdoor spaces and defend from the weather? Absco has the solution

TRUSTED BY AUSSIES FOR OVER 50 YEARS

Established in 1968, **Absco** has spent over five decades creating outdoor sheds and structures that suit the way Australians live – and that are designed to withstand our harsh weather conditions. So if you want to shade your outdoor area, add an alfresco entertaining zone, protect your car or all of the above, Absco has you covered. Their structures are made in Australia, and engineered to Australian standards in high-tensile, UV-resistant steel. The best news? They're specially designed to be DIY-friendly, meaning you could be utilising your fabulous new space in as little as a weekend. Here's how.

1 EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES

Start by identifying the product that best suits your needs. Do you want to expand your living space to the outdoors, or use your patio year-round? Look at Absco patio covers. Dreaming of an alfresco dining spot, poolside shade or a hangout at the bottom of the garden? Consider an Absco gazebo. Or you may simply want to give your car some protection from the elements; your go-to here is a practical and stylish Absco carport. Transform your renovation dreams into reality with Absco's structures, crafted to elevate and redefine your outdoor living.

2 SIZE MATTERS

Customise your structure choice to seamlessly integrate with your available space. Patio covers, designed for attachment to a brick or block wall, boast a standard depth of 3m and come in various widths, providing the flexibility to suit diverse alfresco spaces. Gazebos, freestanding

and easily secured to a concrete slab, are available in single (3m) or double (6m) options, ensuring you have the ideal size for your outdoor sanctuary. Whether you need coverage for one or two vehicles, explore single and double carports with height variations tailored to match your vehicle and aesthetic preferences. Remember to check each model for exact sizing details.

3 ROOF DESIGN

Absco DIY structures have neat, clean lines that will work with both traditional and modern homes, but there's more to them than just good looks. The kits come with gutters, downpipes and matching fittings for a cohesive finish, with panels cut to length and all the necessary fixings. Thoughtful optional accessories for patio covers include skylight sheets to

admit more natural light, or upgrade to include built-in downlights in your alfresco area. In the carport range, you can choose from a budget-friendly, contemporary-style skillion roofline, or a gabled version (the traditional triangular shape) which offers good air circulation and more vertical space.

4 MATERIAL SELECTION

Patio covers, gazebos and carports all come in a choice of either non-insulated or the new insulated range. The sleek non-insulated option comes with an N2 wind rating and offers great value for money. The insulated models have an N3 wind rating and a 50mm fire-retardant insulated core between the UV-resistant steel roof and the smooth finished ceiling, helping to keep your outdoor spaces cooler in summer and warmer in winter.



Absco Structures 6m x 3m x 2.4m/3m insulated double patio cover in Surfmist, \$4,499, I/N: 0477245†



Absco Structures 6.12m x 3.11m x 2.6m insulated **single carport** in Monument, \$6,899, I/N: 0535331*



Absco Structures 'Signature' 3.11m x 3.11m x 2.6m insulated **single gazebo** in Pale Eucalypt, \$4,999, I/N: 0538029*

5 SET THE TONE

Your final pick is the fun one: the colour! Roofs of Absco structures come in five popular Colorbond colours to work with your home's exterior style: (below from left) Woodland Grey, Pale Eucalypt, Classic Cream, Monument and Surfmist. Or you can opt for classic Zincalume for timeless good looks*.



*Not all colours are available for some models. Please check the website for more details.



Scan this QR code to find out more about the range of Absco sheds and structures.

NEED TO KNOW

Most structural additions to your home and garden need council approval, so before you buy, check your plans with your local authority. Once that's sorted, head in store to talk to the team at the Special Orders Desk. The DIY kit will be delivered direct to your door (delivery is included in the price). Download the Absco Sheds app to view instructions on your phone, and to check which tools you'll need to complete the job – or if you're unsure, call the Customer Service team on 1800 029 701 for advice. Put aside a weekend, enlist a mate or two to help, and you're away!

SHOP THE RANGE



1 Absco Structures 6m x 3m x 3m **double patio cover** in Woodland Grey, \$1,899, I/N: 0444863. 2 Absco Structures 5.5m x 5.5m x 2.37m skillion **double carport** in Zincalume, \$2,299, I/N: 0432213. 3 Absco Structures 6m x 6m x 2.98m gable **double carport** in Woodland Grey, \$5,859, I/N: 0453502. 4 Absco Structures 5.5m x 3m x 2.37m skillion **single carport** in Monument, \$1,899, I/N: 0432215. 5 Absco Structures 'Signature' 6.12m x 3.11m x 2.6m insulated **single carport** in Woodland Grey, \$6,899, I/N: 0535329. 6 Absco Structures 3m x 3m x 3m **single patio cover** in Classic Cream, \$1,299, I/N: 0432212. 7 Absco Structures 6m x 3m x 2.66m gable **single carport** in Pale Eucalypt, \$5,319, I/N: 0453505. 8 Absco Structures 'Signature' 6.12m x 3.11m x 2.6m insulated **double gazebo** in Surfmist, \$6,999, I/N: 0538033. 9 Absco Structures 3m x 3m x 2.4m/3m insulated **single patio cover** in Pale Eucalypt, \$2,699, I/N: 0477242. All prices include delivery.

ABSCO STRUCTURES

www.abscosheds.com.au

Creating a magical spot to sit
and smell the roses is easier
than you might think

10 fast fixes

SPARE WEEKEND? GIVE YOUR OUTDOOR SPACES
AN INSTANT BOOST WITH THESE TIME- AND
SPACE-SAVING SPRUCE-UPS

Making an exterior area more user-friendly doesn't require a complete overhaul. There are plenty of small, quick and affordable DIY updates that can have a great impact on the appearance, usability and enjoyment of your alfresco zones. Read on to discover a range of tasks you can whip through in a weekend.

1 Create a nook

A cosy space is an open invitation to relax outdoors. Nothing beats a comfy occasional chair with a small coffee stand, says landscape designer Inge Jabara of Inge Jabara Landscapes (@ingejabaralandscapes). "Style an existing outdoor chair with a new lick of paint or oil. Umbrellas tend to be the most cost-effective shade solution, and of course under a tree is free!" Another great way to create a beautiful little garden escape is to install a timber or steel arbour – add a chair or bench underneath and then train an evergreen climber over the structure for a lovely effect.

2 On the fence

If your fence is dull and bordering on being an eyesore, improve the view with paint and leafy interest. "I always design my boundary fences to be a dark colour – the green of the plants pop off it," says Inge. Plant a mix of greenery in front of the fence or choose varieties of climber to grow up it. "Attach steel reo mesh to the fence using U-shaped nails, and train an evergreen climber like Chinese star jasmine (*Trachelospermum jasminoides*) to cover the trellis," suggests Inge.

3 Walk the line

Replacing the rotary hoist or freestanding airer with a retractable or wall-mounted fold-down clothesline will instantly make your space look neater and less cluttered, says horticulturist and landscaper Matt Carroll (@hortiman). Installation is relatively straightforward, but varies depending on the model. "Be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully," advises Matt.

4 Light the way

Installing solar bollard or stake lights is an affordable and effective way to illuminate a walkway – and a speedy update. Simply choose a style and place the lights at equal intervals wherever needed – along the path to the front entrance or back door, and other key access or traffic areas.

"Positioning lights at turns in the path or where the pathway material changes can help you navigate outdoors"

Inge Jabara, landscape designer



ABOVE For a crisp, clean look, plant greenery or place pots against a dark wall or fence

5 Throw a little shade

In a sunny garden, backyard or deck, a gazebo, shade sail or cantilever umbrella is essential to help protect you and take the heat off in summer. "You can find them in a range of sizes to suit your space," says Matt. "A cantilever umbrella is great over a small table setting or furniture, while a shade sail covers a larger area but needs to be attached to posts or an existing structure." ▶



GOOD SAVE!

- Strike cuttings from your existing plants or go for a browse in the gardens of your family and friends. Dip the ends into rooting hormone to increase your chances of success.
- Transform an old timber ladder into a vertical garden by fixing it to a wall and attaching hanging pots or window box planters to the rungs.
- Create an outdoor cinema by hanging a drop sheet from a sturdy rope, and secure with spring clamps. Tuck the projector under a table to prevent trip hazards.



6 Get organised

Give garden equipment a dedicated home with a shed. "If space is at a premium, consider making use of the awkward side access with a slimline shed," suggests Matt Carroll. If the ground is uneven or a dirt track, include a shed timber-flooring kit.

ABOVE A shed not only solves the clutter problem, it can also be styled into a cool work space. RIGHT A bright mix of dahlias, fuchsias, tobacco plants and verberna gives an instant lift

7 Clear boundaries

Lawns creeping onto paths or garden beds can make a yard look untidy, but Inge Jabara says this is easily solved by adding garden edging. "It creates a nice delineation between lawns and gardens and gives you an edge to whipper-snip against," she says. Choose from bricks, plastic, hardwood timber, aluminium or galvanised steel. Plastic and steel options can be locked together and tapped into place, and can also accommodate different angles and curves.

8 A burst of colour

Pretty up planters and garden beds with flowering annuals or perennials. "Use them as garden bed gap fillers, especially where you can see soil," says Inge. To keep them looking their best, mulch well with a naturally derived mulch such as pine bark or pea straw, and stay on top of watering to prevent the soil from drying out.





Simple additions such as modular decking and comfy chairs make a big difference

9 Hit the deck

Expand the usability of your outdoor space with a modular deck. "Building one is relatively straightforward, as they're available in flatpack kits," says Matt. "They can be retrofitted to existing areas without the need to excavate, and can be cladded, painted or stained to match existing finishes."

10 Drinks on me

Spend less time working in the garden and more time enjoying your outdoor space by adding an automated irrigation system. It sounds overwhelming, but the benefits are huge. "Once installed, the timer will manage the flow of water and it can be set to regular times and days of the week," explains Inge. ♦

Scan the QR code

Save time and water with automated irrigation: **bunnings.com.au/install-irrigation**



Watch it!

SHOP



1 Coolaroo 'Kuranda' 3m round **market umbrella** in Smoke, \$179, I/N: 0465004. **2** Mojo 45cm striped **cushion covers** in Black, \$7.15 each, I/N: 0149110, and 45cm **cushion inserts**, \$11.10 each, I/N: 3192728. **3** Good Times Decking 1113mm x 555mm **modular decking** panels in Merbau, \$131.48 each, I/N: 8451194*. **4** Holman 'EzyOne' mini 6 station **irrigation controller**, \$99, I/N: 0164247. **5** Eden 'Wavy' 30cm **planter** in Sandstone, \$20.98, I/N: 0118220. **6** Holman 450mm **path light** in Warm White, \$69, I/N: 0011681. **7** Mimosa 'Malibu' **sun lounge**, \$329, I/N: 0256337. **8** Coolaroo 'HeatShield' 3.6m square **shade sail** in Peppercorn, \$149, I/N: 0477303. **9** 10 cell assorted **annuals**. Some products are not available at all Bunnings stores, but may be ordered.



ABOVE and OPPOSITE Mimosa 'Woolamai' round **market umbrella**, \$169, I/N: 3192696, and 'Malibu' 160cm x 80cm **bar table**, \$349, I/N: 0256331, and **bar stools** with seat cushions, \$159 each, I/N: 0256329. Marquee 'Drinks Cooler' 30L galvanised **ice bucket**, \$24.98, I/N: 3190639. (On table) ▲ Salt & Pepper 'Winston' 450ml high ball **glasses**, set of 4, I/N: 0157463*. Bayliss 'Dura' 225cm x 155cm jute **rug**, \$256, I/N: 0045233. (On rug) Mojo 45cm **cushion cover** in Terracotta, \$7.15, I/N: 0285771, and 45cm **cushion insert**, \$11.10, I/N: 3192728. For a similar **croquet set**, try ▲ Jenjo kids' outdoor wooden mini **croquet set** with 4 mallets, I/N: 0419109*. All other products, stylist's own. Some products are not available at all Bunnings stores, but may be ordered. Bring rug inside out of the weather when not in use. ▲ This product is available to buy online only and is sold and delivered by a Bunnings Marketplace Trusted Seller. Not all items are available in all states and territories. *Delivery charges may apply.

FAMILY FETE

Create a carnival atmosphere with blackboard signs announcing the attractions. Little ones will love helping to draw them up – and chalk means much less mess than paint!

ROLL UP, ROLL UP!

BRING ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR TO YOUR OWN BACKYARD WITH THESE TRADITIONAL GAMES

Photography SUE STUBBS Styling KATIE TURNER



The long days of late summer are ideal for rounding up friends and neighbours to enjoy homemade garden games. From simple painted cans and an outsized noughts and crosses grid made of rope to a beanbag toss platform that requires some carpentry nous, there's a DIY project here for every skill set. ▶

Chalk scoreboard and signs

To make the scoreboard, apply a coat of primer to a standard MDF panel using a roller and leave to dry, then apply two coats of chalkboard paint. On two lengths of pine moulding, measure and mark pieces for the tops and sides of the frame, then use a mitre box and handsaw to cut with a 45° angle. Sand the cut ends smooth with 180-grit abrasive paper, wipe away dust, then seal the frame pieces with clear polyurethane and leave to dry. Run a bead of high-strength construction adhesive along the back of each frame piece, position on the painted panel and clamp to hold in place while the adhesive cures.

For the signs, cut MDF to desired size, sand the edges and paint as above. Sand and wipe garden stakes, then prime and apply two coats of exterior paint. Once dry, fix the signs to the stakes with construction adhesive, clamping while it cures.

RIGHT and BELOW DIY scoreboard and signs made using CustomWood 900mm x 600mm x 6mm standard **MDF panel**, I/N: 0590082*, Dulux '1Step Prep' **primer, sealer & undercoat**, \$49.90/1L, I/N: 1370232, and 'Design Effects' **chalkboard paint** in Black, \$55.50/1L, I/N: 1400891, Porta 31mm x 15mm pine **moulding** in Clear, \$22.40/2.4m, I/N: 0092839*, Cabot's 'Cabothane Clear' satin water based **polyurethane timber varnish**, \$31.50/500ml, I/N: 1522368, Selleys 'Liquid Nails Original' **adhesive**, \$5.50/320g I/N: 1233751, 17mm x 17mm x 600mm hardwood **garden stakes**, Growies I/N: 3048192 (Qld, NSW, ACT), and Lattice Makers I/N: 0239942 (Tas, Vic, WA, NT, SA), and British Paints '4 Seasons' semi gloss exterior **paint** in White, \$25.50/500ml, I/N: 0207118.



Set up a refreshments table under shade, where adults can keep an eye on the action

ABOVE Mimosa 'Woolamai' round **market umbrella**, \$169, I/N: 3192696, and 'Malibu' 160cm x 80cm **bar table**, \$349, I/N: 0256331, and **bar stools** with seat cushions, \$159 each, I/N: 0256329. (On table) ▲ Salt & Pepper 'Winston' 450ml high ball **glasses**, set of 4, I/N: 0157463*. Marquee 'Drinks Cooler' 30L galvanised **ice bucket**, \$24.98, I/N: 3190639. All other products, stylist's own. Some products are not available at all Bunnings stores, but may be ordered. ▲ This product is available to buy online only and is sold and delivered by a Bunnings Marketplace Trusted Seller. Not all items are available in all states and territories. *Delivery charges may apply.

FRESH AIR FUN

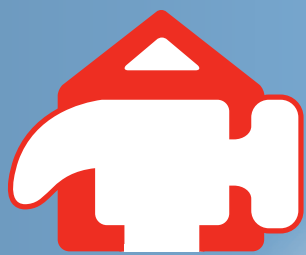
Organising lawn games – especially one that involves a chaotic avalanche of clattering cans! – helps encourage even the most sedentary of kids to get out of the house and on the move.



Tin can alley

Recycle six empty 460g Milo tins by removing the paper labels, masking the lids, bottoms and rims with painter's tape, then spraying with metal primer. Once dry, apply two coats of acrylic paint using a mini roller, leaving to dry after each coat, then remove the tape. Upright a timber crate and stack cans in a pyramid on top.

LEFT DIY tin can alley made using Dulux 'Duramax' flat metal **primer spray**, \$15.50/340g, I/N: 1400721, Taubmans 250ml **paint sample pots** in Chestnut Caper, Pina Colada, Babbling Stream and Pale Moss Green, \$6.80 each, I/N: 1540711, and large wood storage **crate**, \$22.59, I/N: 0214210 (limited stock available).



February 2024

HammerBarn

FREE
MINI MAGAZINE

IT'S a PIZZa PARTY!

Enjoy outdoor
eating this
February

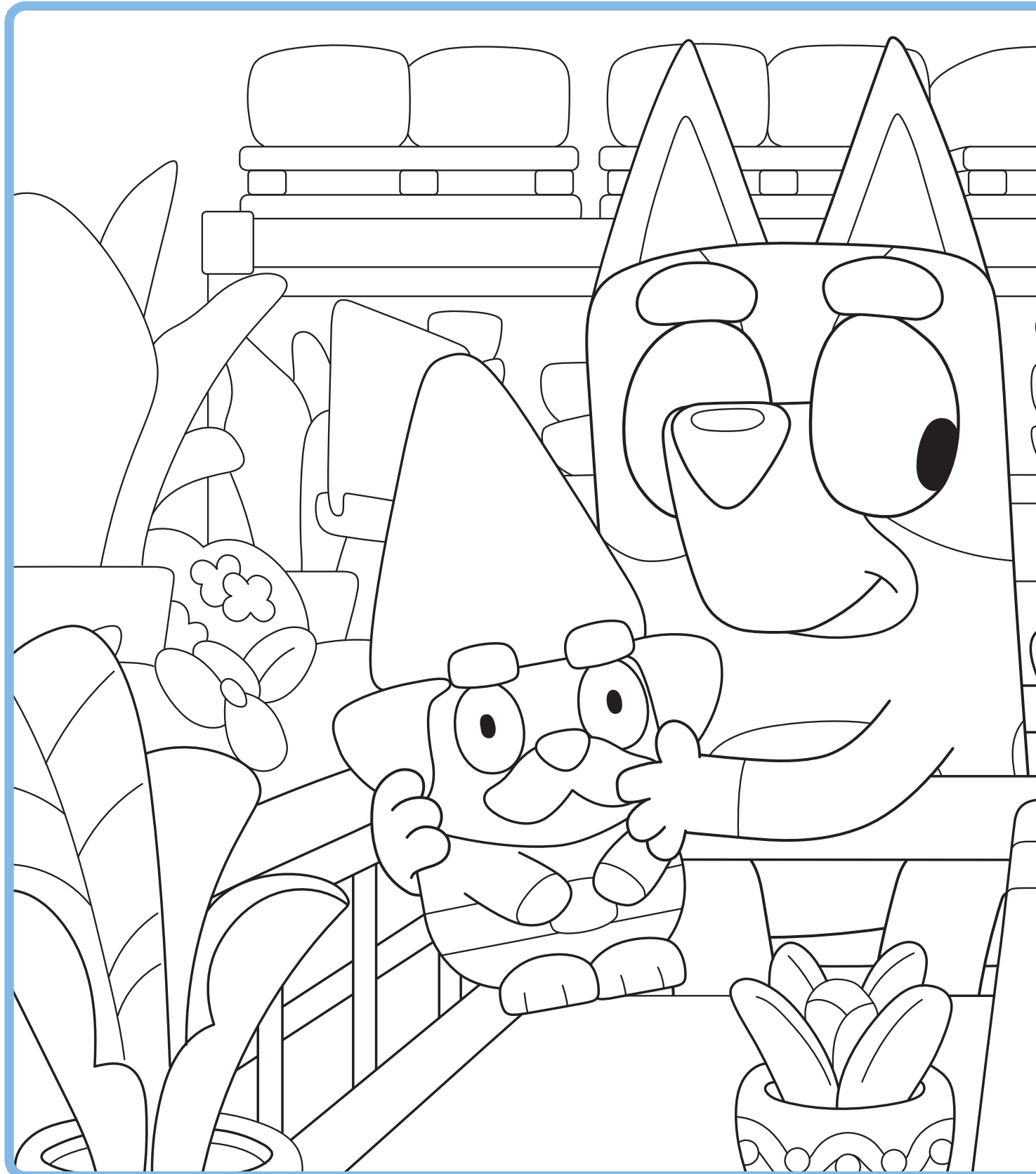


Hey kiddos! Can you circle all the critters hiding
around the Heeler house? There are 7 to find!



TEAM MEMBER
OF THE
MONTH!

COLOUR IN BLUEY, BINGO,



GERALD & HECUBA!



IT'S a PIZZA PARTY!

Summer isn't over yet, so make the most of the warm weather and enjoy a pizza outside!

Bandit thinks pizza will taste better in a new pizza oven from Hammerbarn – just like the one Lucky's Dad owns.

But you can make the best ham and pineapple pizza ever in your regular kitchen oven!



Ham & Pineapple Pizza

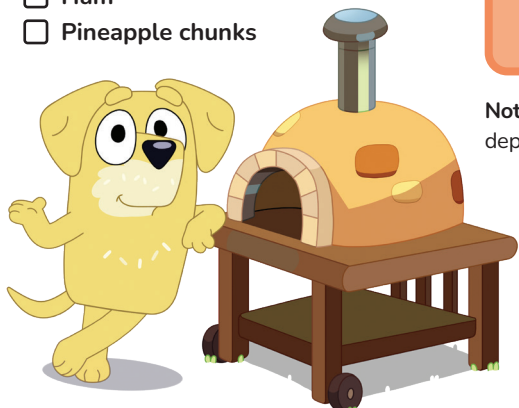
YOU WILL NEED:

- ☐ 1 pizza oven or regular oven
- ☐ 1 pizza tray
- ☐ 1 spoon
- ☐ 1 pizza cutter (ask a grown-up for help with cutting!)
- ☐ Plates for serving



INGREDIENTS:

- ☐ Pizza sauce
- ☐ 1 pizza base
- ☐ Grated cheese
- ☐ Ham
- ☐ Pineapple chunks



METHOD:

Don't forget to wash your hands before you cook, and always ask a grown-up to help you in the kitchen!



Step 1

Put a big spoonful of pizza sauce in the middle of your pizza base. Use the back of your spoon to spread the sauce out evenly, all the way to the edge of your pizza.

Step 3

Rip up your ham into small pieces (ask a grown-up how small!!) and spread the ham and pineapple chunks out on top of the pizza.

Step 2

Take a handful of grated cheese and sprinkle it all over the pizza sauce. If you didn't get enough the first time, you can add more!

Step 4

Ask a grown-up to cook the pizza in your oven or pizza oven, and when it's ready tuck in!

Careful – pizza is hot straight out of the oven!

Note to grown-ups: Cook your pizza to packet instructions depending on your choice of base.

**We hope you enjoy your pizza!
And don't worry if it looks a bit
bodgy... it's just got character.**

BON APPETIT!





Jumbo noughts & crosses

On two packs of cork tiles, use a ruler, a compass or plate and a pencil to draw six crosses and six circles, then cut out using a utility knife. Lay one coil of sisal rope on your lawn in a square, then cut another into four 2.5m lengths, lay out in a grid, secure the corners taut with irrigation (or weedmat) pins and knot rope ends.

LEFT DIY jumbo noughts and crosses game made using Floor Select 305mm x 305mm x 6mm **cork tiles** in Natural, \$17.98/pack of 6, I/N: 6690244, Grunt 16mm **sisal rope** in Natural, \$34.65/10m, I/N: 0231457, and Jack heavy duty **irrigation pins**, \$4.90/pack of 10, I/N: 3100136.

BEANBAG TOSS PLATFORM

Tools & materials

- Safety equipment (eye protection, mask and gloves)
- Tape measure and pencil
- Mitre saw
- Drill with driver, 9mm and 8G combination countersinking bits
- Compass
- Jigsaw
- Mini roller, tray and spare covers
- Rubber mallet
- Small shifting spanner
- Two 2400mm lengths of 64mm x 19mm DAR pine*
- Woodworking adhesive
- 8G x 40mm countersunk screws
- 1200mm x 600mm x 9mm MDF panel*
- Timber filler
- 1200mm length of 42mm x 19mm DAR pine*
- 180-grit abrasive paper with sanding block
- Microfibre cloth
- Painter's tape
- Exterior primer
- Exterior paint
- Clear exterior varnish
- M10 x 90mm galvanised cuphead bolts with nuts and M10 washers

1 To make the platform frame, use a mitre saw to cut a 1200mm side from each length of 64mm pine, then a 560mm top and base.
2 Position the sides against the top and base, keeping the edges flush, then use a combination countersinking bit to predrill two holes into each join, 10mm from the ends. Apply adhesive and secure with 40mm screws.
3 On the MDF panel, mark a point 300mm in from the sides and 300mm from the top, then use a compass to draw a 150mm-diameter circle. Use a drill with 9mm bit to make

a starter hole, then cut the circle with a jigsaw.
4 Position the panel over the frame, predrill 100mm in from the corners, then apply adhesive and secure with 40mm screws. Apply timber filler over the screw holes and leave to dry.
5 From 42mm pine, cut two 300mm legs. Mark down the centres and 50mm from the end to mark a curve with a compass, then cut with a jigsaw. At the marks, drill holes right through with a 9mm bit.
6 Use 180-grit abrasive paper with a sanding block to smooth over all pieces and



ABOVE DIY beanbag toss platform made using 1200mm x 600mm x 9mm standard **MDF panel**, I/N: 0590083* (NSW, Qld, ACT) and I/N: 0590032* (Vic, WA, SA, Tas, NT). Claymark 42mm x 19mm standard **DAR pine**, \$5.02/1.2m, I/N: 8401487*, 64mm x 19mm standard **DAR pine**, \$6.93/1.2m, I/N: 8401490*, Taubmans **paint sample pot** in Babbling Stream, \$6.80/250ml, I/N: 1540711, and Cabot's 'Exterior Clear' polyurethane timber **varnish** in Clear Satin, \$28.95/500ml, I/N: 1520265. All other products, stylist's own.

remove excess filler. Wipe away dust with a damp cloth.
7 Using painter's tape, mask a 20mm border around the top and sides of the box, a triangle from the centre base of the circle to the corners, and the frame. Use a mini roller to apply primer and two coats of paint to the border, triangle, and edges, leaving to dry after each coat. Tip: Remove the tape as soon as you've finished painting to avoid peeling.
8 Seal the box and legs with two coats of clear varnish all over, leaving to dry after each.
9 With the box upside down, at the top end, on both sides, drill

holes 30mm up from the edge and 45mm from the end with a 9mm bit. Position the legs inside, lining up the holes and tapping in bolts from the outside with a rubber mallet. Check the legs move freely, add washers and tighten the nuts with a small spanner. ♦



Keep in mind...

- When using power tools, sanding and painting, always wear the recommended safety gear and work in a well-ventilated area.
- Avoid injury by supervising small children playing croquet and tin can alley. Do not climb or jump on the structures.

Hedge your bets

Future-proof your garden with low-water boundary plants

Coastal rosemary

This hardy native has a dense growth habit made up of small, tightly packed, silver-green foliage. Masses of white or blue flowers appear in spring. It responds well to pruning and is tolerant of drought, heat, cold and frost. Plant in full sun and ensure the soil is well-draining.

Bottlebrush

A bushy habit, coupled with the distinctive red, pink or white flower spikes that give this woody shrub its name, make it ideal for hedging – either as an informal planting or clipped into a neat form. Ranging from 0.5m to 4m tall, it grows well in many different soil types but flowers best in full sun.

Photinia

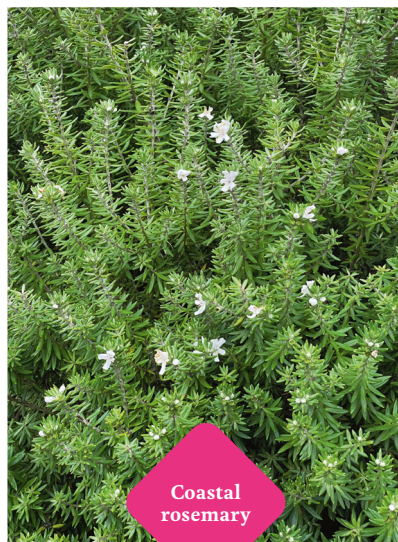
A fast-growing hedging plant with dark green foliage and red new-leaf growth. Sprays of creamy white flowers appear from spring to early summer, followed by small red fruit. Frost and drought-tolerant, it grows in most climates but prefers a sunny spot. Look for named species such as Red Robin and Thin Red.

Native fuchsia

The profusion of tubular or bell-shaped pale-green, pink and/or red blooms on this compact shrub are a magnet for birds in winter and spring. Depending on the variety, it grows to 1m to 2m tall and is suitable for planting in most soil types, in full sun or shade. ♦



FOR MORE PLANTS, VISIT
bunnings.com.au/plants



Coastal
rosemary

(*Westringia fruticosa*)

An evergreen shrub available in a variety of hybrids. Grows up to 2m tall and 4m wide.



Bottlebrush

(*Callistemon* spp.)

Nectar-rich flowers in spring and summer attract birds and beneficial pollinating insects.



Photinia

(*Photinia robusta*)

Prune regularly to maintain a dense habit and feed in spring with a slow-release fertiliser.



Native
fuchsia

(*Correa* spp.)

Thrives in coastal areas and is tolerant of dry periods and light frost once established.

Soak it up

Add Richgro Ezi-Wet to your gardening arsenal, to help keep your soil hydrated and get water right down to your plants' roots, where it's needed

Sometimes your plants need help to thrive – especially when summer is being less than helpful, with a run of baking days and rain a distant memory. **Richgro Ezi-Wet Soil Soaker** reduces the impact of hot, drying weather and improves the condition of your soil, and you can use it just about anywhere: on potted plants, lawns, garden beds and edibles.

HOW IT WORKS

If you have sandy soil, prolonged dry weather or your potted plants haven't been watered in a while, your soil can turn hydrophobic, developing a waxy coating that actually repels moisture. Ezi-Wet fixes this by breaking down the coating and allowing water to

get right down to the roots of your plants, just where it's needed, helping to reduce run-off and doing away with dry patches. Promoting strong root growth means you won't need to water as often – which is why Ezi-Wet gets a tick from the national Smart Approved WaterMark scheme. It's aquatic friendly, safe for worms, and contains an organic fertiliser to give your plants a boost.

PICK YOUR PRODUCT

Ezi-Wet Soil Soaker comes in different formats to suit your garden and what you need to treat. For a large area – such as a lawn – Ezi-Wet **Granulated** Soil Soaker, available in 5kg or 10kg bags, is a quick and easy option. Simply distribute it by hand or spreader as you would



a fertiliser, and water in. The 2L Ezi-Wet **Ready-to-Use** Soil Soaker is speedy and convenient; attach it to your hose and off you go. Or dilute Ezi-Wet **Concentrate** Soil Soaker in a watering can according to the instructions and apply – the 1L bottle is also a refill for the 2L Ready-to-Use. Add 500ml of Concentrate to the 2L bottle and fill to the top with water.

Give your garden the Ezi-Wet treatment for a blooming space to enjoy year round.



- 1** Richgro 'Ezi Wet' **granulated soil soaker**, \$13.94/5kg, I/N: 0164630. **2** Richgro 'Ezi Wet' **granulated soil soaker**, \$21.50/10kg, I/N: 0164631. **3** Richgro 'Ezi Wet' **concentrate soil soaker**, \$14.98/1L, I/N: 0135316. **4** Richgro 'Ezi Wet' **ready-to-use soil soaker**, \$14.92/2L, I/N: 0135317.

Some products are not available at all Bunnings stores, but may be ordered. Always check with your local council if watering restrictions apply in your area. Wear gloves when handling granulated soil soaker, and store all garden products out of the reach of children and pets.

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Scan this QR code to watch Charlie Albone's guide to a waterwise garden using Richgro Ezi-Wet.

Survival of the coolest

CHECK OUT NINE LOW-SPEND
HEAT-BUSTERS TO BRING
DOWN TEMPERATURES INSIDE
AND OUTSIDE YOUR HOME

Words SHELLEY TUSTIN



When the sun is scorching overhead and it feels like you'll never not be sweaty again, every little cooling strategy counts. Try these tips for keeping the heat in and around your home as low as possible – and without breaking the bank by blasting the aircon.

1 In the mist

Airconditioning for outdoors? Yes, please! A misting system basically works the same as an evaporative cooler, emitting a super-fine mist of water that cools the air as it evaporates. You can pick up a misting kit for less than \$100 to DIY install, as it includes fittings to attach the pipe to the outside of your patio area. Then, you simply turn on the tap and enjoy the instant cooling. Or, you can convert an outdoor fan – wall, floor or pedestal – with a misting ring to get an evaporative cooling effect. (Indoors, use a misting pedestal fan.)

2 Green machine

As well as providing welcome shade, trees cool the surrounding air through transpiration, making them more effective at cooling than any other form of shade.

Before planting a shade tree, look at how you use your outdoor area, the orientation of the sun, and also seasonal solutions. Landscape architect Matt Leacy of Landart (landart.com.au) says deciduous trees are a great compromise. "A beautiful big leafy frangipani can be an ideal summer shade choice for frost-free gardens, but will also then allow light



and sun into your outdoor space when it loses its leaves in cooler months," he says. When choosing a tree, Matt advises doing your research: "Look at the size it will be when fully grown, how invasive the roots are if it's close to your house, water pipes or paths and driveway, and the conditions it likes."

3 Soft touch

Hard surfaces can absorb and radiate heat in the garden, but you can soften the effect with greenery. "If you have a large expanse of dark fencing, look at planting

hedging along it – pear or olive trees pop beautifully against a dark background – or large-leaf foliage. If space is tight, try something like a creeping fig climbing across fences or, for a pop of colour, bougainvillea can also be a great option," says Matt.

For lawn and paved areas, install awnings, umbrellas or shade cloths. If you're putting down new pavers, bear in mind lighter colours absorb less heat. When considering turf, real grass is cooler, says Matt. So save faux grass for shady areas.

4 Water world

A fountain won't do much to lower the temperature of your entire backyard, but tinkling water features can create a localised pocket of cool. "You'll feel the coolness from the water – and the sound of running water is lovely and soothing," says Matt. "If you live in an inner-city area, a water feature can provide a lovely ambient background sound that helps mask urban noises beyond your garden."

5 Window work

Windows can be both the problem and the solution for keeping a home cool. Heat passes through glass into your home (double glazing helps to reduce thermal transfer) but, when the temperature drops, an open window is just like free airconditioning. To make your windows work for you, keep them closed when it's hotter outside than inside. Then open them when the temperature drops; if there's a breeze, open windows on opposite sides of the house so hot air can escape.

6 Cover up

To further reduce heat transfer through windows, curtains and blinds are the go. The most effective material for these is block-out fabric, says Bunnings home furnishings buyer Hannah Ahtuam.

Sheers are useful if you want natural light without the full searing heat of the sun, but their ability to block heat is limited, so stick to a more heavy-duty solution for rooms that bear the

full brunt of the afternoon sun. Look at how window furnishings are fixed, too, says Hannah. "Face fixing roller blinds [covering the whole window] can help to minimise sunlight coming in over the top and sides; hang curtains above the frame. And close coverings before the sun reaches peak temperature to help prevent heat entering the home."

7 Blind ambition

On the outside, awnings do a fantastic job of blocking sunlight and heat, and they come in a range of sizes to cover windows or entire outdoor rooms. When not needed, they can be easily wound away or, in the case of motorised awnings, retracted at the touch of a button.

Outdoor blinds can be used to protect outdoor areas from the sun. Look for versions that filter out UV rays. They need to be balanced with keeping air flow, otherwise the space can get very hot, warns Hannah: "Outdoor blinds work best against areas exposed to direct sunlight, while keeping the opposite side open to allow the breeze to come through."

8 Shady characters

Shade sails and umbrellas offer more flexibility for outdoor areas than an awning, making them ideal for renters. A shade sail is stretched across three or four fixing points, meaning you can set up a cool and shady zone over the kids' play space or elsewhere in the garden. Umbrellas are good for moving around to direct shade as the sun shifts in the sky.

9 Icy cool

When the mercury rises, cranking up the airconditioning can seem like the only solution. But there are economical ways to use it. For a start, check if your airconditioner has an 'eco' mode. Then set the temperature a little higher – each degree cooler adds about 10 per cent to the running cost*. And use fans to help circulate the cooled air around your home.

No airconditioning? Hang a damp towel on a rack in front of a desktop or floor fan (not over the fan). Or put a bowl of ice in front of the fan. ◆

Soak stars

BUBBLING OVER WITH LUXURY AND WELLNESS VIBES, A SPA CAN FIT WHERE A POOL CAN'T, ELEVATING OUTDOOR LIVING

Words KYLIE JACKES

Space-efficient and also wonderfully portable, a spa brings instant luxury to an outdoor space, creating a refreshing retreat. Here's what you need to know before setting up a feel-good zone at your home.

1 Lifestyle choice

When spa shopping, Mark Rushton of Bestway Australia suggests considering your capacity requirements (how many people you want it to accommodate) as well as size and features such as massage systems and accessories. An affordable option, and one that's ideal for renters, is an inflatable, portable model made from heavyweight PVC that is quick to set up and can travel with you.

2 Location, location

Spas don't require a lot of space, making them a great option for a compact, flat outdoor area like a patio or deck – just ensure the chosen location has adequate weight-bearing capacity. "The surface, which must be on ground level, needs to be capable of supporting the weight of the filled spa and the weight of the users," says Mark. You also need to ensure there's a suitable spot for the

water to drain and access to an outdoor power outlet. Mark suggests placing the spa in the vicinity of a fence or wall that can act as a windbreak. "This helps retain more heat and in turn reduce running costs, but make sure the spa is at least one metre away from any fence or climbing zone," he says.

Also plan how you'll fence the area. For information on spa fencing regulations and permits in your area, get in touch with your local council.

3 Feel the serenity

For a resort-style spa setting, stylist Louise Roche of Villa Styling (thedesigntvilla.com.au) suggests amping up the surrounding greenery. "To create a secluded, lush feel, cluster large pots filled with tropical plants such as palms, consider a decorative screen for privacy and add evening ambience with festoon lights and sparkling LED lights dotted around the deck or garden," she says.

4 Keep warm

Most spas come with a cover, which not only helps keep debris out of the water, but also acts as insulation to help retain warmth and

reduce the amount of power needed to get it up to temperature when you next take a dip. Mark says Lay-Z-Spa models have a power-saving timer, allowing you to set a heater start time and duration, so it doesn't run longer than needed. "Other ways to increase energy efficiency include filling the spa from the hot tap, maintaining a constant temperature [instead of reheating] and keeping up with spa maintenance," says Mark.

5 Healthy routine

A regular but simple maintenance schedule is needed to keep your spa sparkling. To maintain water quality, Stuart Bennett from Fluidra (suppliers of Baracuda pool and spa products), recommends partially or completely draining and refilling the water periodically, plus regularly wiping the spa shell and cover to prevent mould, algae and calcium build-up. Clean and replace the filter as required and use a spa pipe cleaner to prevent debris build-up in the jets.

To check the chemical balance, use spa test strips with the Baracuda SmartDose app. "This allows you to adjust the pH, alkalinity and sanitiser levels as recommended," says Stuart.

“Proper chemical maintenance, using the cover and showering before getting in your spa will all prolong the lifespan of the water”

Mark Rushton, Bestway

SPA TIME

TOP MODELS



PLANTS, SCREENING & OUTDOOR LIGHTING



CLEANING & MAINTENANCE



Keep in mind...

- All pools and pool fencing must conform to your local authority's safety regulations and guidelines.
- Pools and spas more than 30cm deep require fencing. Contact your local council for permit and approval information relevant to your area.
- Always supervise children in and around water.
- Make sure any lighting used outside is suitable for outdoors. Any hardwired electrical fixtures must be installed by a licensed electrician.
- Any plumbing work must be carried out by a licensed tradie.

1 Bestway Lay-Z-Spa 'Miami Airjet' 1.8m x 66cm inflatable spa, \$549, I/N: 0228582*. 2 Bestway Lay-Z-Spa 'Helsinki Airjet' 1.8m x 66cm inflatable spa, \$1,199, I/N: 0230326*. 3 Bestway Lay-Z-Spa 'Riviera Airjet' 1.96m x 71cm inflatable spa, \$999, I/N: 0363418*. 4 Bangalow palm plant. 5 Lytworx 'Milano' festoon indoor/outdoor low voltage party lights in Warm White, \$48/10 bulbs, I/N: 0432270. 6 Matrix 'Ferns' 1800mm x 900mm x 6mm screen panel in Charcoal, \$99, I/N: 0092401. 7 Northcote Pottery 21cm x 20cm fibreclay cylinder pot in White, \$14.98, I/N: 0238843. 8 Holman 30mm deck lights in Warm White, \$69.98/pack of 6, I/N: 0011666. 9 Brilliant 'Coolum' twin head exterior light, \$102, I/N: 7070819 (globes sold separately). 10 Baracuda spa test strips, \$25.90/pack of 50, I/N: 0327429. 11 Hy-Chlor 'Hydro Therapy RX' spa fragrance, \$26.25/1L, I/N: 0327210. 12 Hy-Chlor spa microfibre glove, \$11.60, I/N: 0327235. 13 Baracuda spa pipe cleaner, \$22.64/500ml, I/N: 0327434. Some products are not available at all Bunnings stores, but may be ordered. ◆



BRIGHT BIRD

This cheeky charmer loves to trill and chill

- 1 I live in...** Redfern, NSW, mostly in my cage.
- 2 My preferred mode of transport is...** My human's left shoulder.
- 3 My morning routine is...** A big stretch, and waking the neighbours with my vocal warm-up.
- 4 I find it difficult to...** Escape! I haven't mastered unlocking my cage door – yet.
- 5 My best friend is...** My human brother Billy.
- 6 I love to eat...** Billy's leftover green vegies.
- 7 My perfect day is...** A bath, a neck scratch and a chat to other birds.
- 8 I often wonder...** What is the cat thinking when she stares at me? Am I that handsome?

Would you like to see your animal pal in our pages? Email your pet's photo, name and breed (with 'Pet of the Month' in the subject line) to submissions@bunnings.com.au. Good luck!

Worm tales

Looking for a pet that doesn't smell or make any noise, can be kept in a box and morphs into a new being over a couple of months? Silkworms might be the answer! While not the cuddliest of creatures, they're a fascinating pet-meets-science experiment that's perfect for kids!

First, check you have access to a mulberry tree. You're going to need a regular supply of fresh leaves during the warmer months, which can be replaced by special silkworm food, called chow, in winter. Then all you need is a shoebox, lined with newspaper so you can remove droppings and old leaves (which you must do every day). Keep the box out of direct sun and draughts.

Search online to buy silkworms or their eggs. These can take up to 20 days to hatch, then the worms will munch away on their leaves for about 30 days before weaving their silky cocoons. About 14 days later, moths will emerge. They can't fly but will search for a mate. If you have male and female moths, the whole cycle will start again in about a week (as they mate, lay eggs and die).



EMPTY NEST

The end of the school holidays is a transition time for many humans and it can affect your dog, too. Hugh Gent OAM, president of Dogs Australia (dogsaustralia.org.au), says it's important to remember that any time things change for people in the family, they also change for the family dog. "Your pup could go from months of constant interaction to long days being completely alone," he says. Try these tricks to help ease the transition.

Establish a consistent routine Aim for around a 30 minute walk at the same time each morning (and evening, ideally) and have set feeding times.

Start small Leave your dog alone for gradually longer periods before the return to school (or work) day to help them get used to it.

Give entertainment Provide toys and long-lasting chews to keep your dog distracted.

Avoid dramatic farewells Don't make a fuss when either leaving or coming home – this can help to keep everyone relaxed.

Look at outsourcing You could also consider doggy day care or a dog walker who can give your pet a bit of company while you're out.

1

Trusty 'Beef T-Bone Bites with Marrowbone' dog treats, \$9.90/400g, I/N: 0438953

Home alone

Happy Tails 'Tough Dumbbell' pet feeder/toy, \$7.99, I/N: 0364846

2

3

Happy Tails 'IQ' treat ball, \$9.99, I/N: 0439260

Some products are not available at all Bunnings stores, but may be ordered. Pet products are not available in WA, except Armadale and Bunbury stores.



GOLDEN YEARS

FOLLOW THESE TIPS TO GIVE YOUR SENIOR PET THE ROYAL TREATMENT THEY DESERVE, AND HELP THEM LIVE THEIR BEST LIFE

Have you noticed your furry family member starting to sprout a few grey hairs or are they less sprightly than they were? As our pets age, we need to take extra care to ensure they are as comfortable as possible.

Rebecca Linigen, national director at animal welfare organisation Four Paws Australia (four-paws.org.au), says cats and small to large dogs are typically considered seniors from eight to nine years of age, and giant-breed dogs from six to seven years old. At this point, you might need to begin making changes to keep them happy and in good health*.

Food for thought

Rethink their diet. Most senior diets will have lower kilojoules to account for a slower metabolism and reduce the risk of obesity, which can exacerbate age-related illnesses. Senior diets also contain slightly different nutrients



and extra supplements to help with ageing – for example, ingredients to promote joint health.

A good night's sleep

Revisit your pet's bedding. "Senior animals especially require soft, supportive, warm bedding and kennels that are easy for them to get into and out of," says Rebecca. "Senior dogs and cats can also be more sensitive to the weather and environmental temperature changes, so be extra careful on hot summer days."

On the move

Exercise is another aspect that may need modification – although remember that physical and mental exercise are still important for senior cats and dogs. "Try going for shorter walks and avoid high-impact activities, such as repetitive fetch, to minimise any risk of pain for your pet," says Rebecca. "Slow 'sniff walks' are incredibly mentally enriching for dogs of all ages." She also suggests choosing lower-impact activities like swimming, setting up different physical activity options such as adding more steps and shelves in cat trees, and incorporating strength and flexibility training for dogs.

Mental exercise is just as important for your pets. "Ensuring your animal is mentally stimulated, for example by puzzle feeders, scent work [finding favourite toys or treats] and play is a great way to provide enrichment for your senior pet, without including physical exertion," says Rebecca. "While older dogs and cats are often calmer, they still enjoy learning and exploring new things. You really can teach an old dog new tricks!"

Give a helping hand

Addressing mobility issues as they appear can help your pet be healthier and more comfortable for longer. For cat parents, it is important to note cats are extremely good at hiding any issues, so any changes are a potential cause for concern. Signs of underlying illness or pain might include your cat or dog not jumping on the couch or bed, or into the car, as easily, quickly or frequently, or changes in behaviour, eating, drinking and toileting.

Some home adjustments might include introducing pet stairs onto furniture, ramps into the car, using a baby gate to block the stairs if your pet is having trouble with them, and elevated food bowls if they have neck or back problems. When it gets to this point, though, there's no substitute for veterinary advice. See your vet for tailored care and support. ♦

New laundry heroes!

Stylish, strong and space-saving, the latest range of Hills products makes doing the washing a breeze



Hills 'Deluxe' 2 tier airer in Black, \$119.95, I/N: 0436116

Dealing with washing is not a chore when you have helpers from Hills. Save space with clothes airers that fold down for easy storage and reduce energy costs – whether you live in an apartment or want a rainy day back-up – and glide through ironing with a board to match your home and needs.

STRONG PERFORMER

Wheel your washing where you need to, from the back deck to the spare room, with the sturdy **Hills Deluxe 2 Tier Airer**. Made from powder-coated steel, it boasts locking castors, a whopping 26m of drying space, a 30kg load capacity, and folds down for easy stowing.



Hills 'H Frame' airer in Black, \$99.97, I/N: 0480962

THE BIG DRY

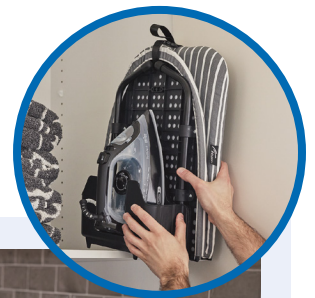
Busy households will appreciate the **Hills H-Frame Airer**. It provides a superior 27m of drying space and an extra-tall design so you can hang longer items. Open and close it with an effortless one-handed motion, and easily store after use – you can hide it under the sofa or bed!

ACROSS THE BOARD

Reliable and robust, the **Hills Medium Ironing Board with Silicone Iron Rest** offers multiple height-adjustment levels, a premium cotton cover, 10mm foam underlay, and thick steel legs with curved feet for maximum stability. Best of all, it includes a handy heat-resistant silicone iron rest, which can be securely positioned anywhere on the board.



Hills medium ironing board with silicone rest, \$79.95, I/N: 0480965



Hills tabletop ironing board, \$49.95, I/N: 0480970



PRESSING ISSUE

Short on space? Go for the compact **Hills Tabletop Ironing Board**. It folds down to half its size – so you can easily store it in a cupboard or on a shelf – and has a handy compartment for your iron. Featuring a heavy-duty cotton cover, use it on the laundry bench, kitchen island, dining table or any suitable flat surface.

FITTING SOLUTION

If you want a drying solution you can tuck out of sight when not in use, the **Hills Wide Top Concertina Airer** only takes 75cm of space when folded down. The wide-top design let you hang larger pieces, while two sock-rail attachments are ideal for smaller items.



Hills wide top concertina airer, \$49.94, I/N: 0480963



hillshome.com.au

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GET A GRIP

A QUICK GUIDE TO CLAMPS FOR DIY PROJECTS AROUND THE HOME

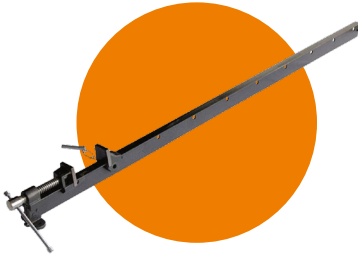
Words NATASHA DICKINS



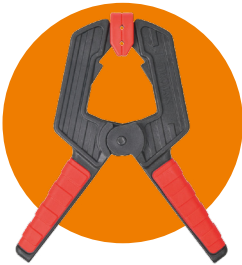
G CLAMP Good for holding flat pieces together against a workbench. It is used by turning the handle at the base, which winds the screw mechanism towards the fixed jaw to create pressure.



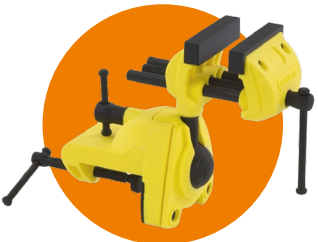
QUICK-RELEASE CLAMP Rubber-tipped jaws move together as you squeeze the handle; pushing the lever gives a quick release. Helpful when woodworking, some can be reconfigured with corner attachments, or to push outwards. Can be used with one hand.



SASH CLAMP Has a long bar with a jaw adjusted by using a winding action. A sliding gripper locks into position along the bar. The long reach is good for bigger workpieces, and joining flat panels edge to edge.



SPRING CLAMP A spring pivot connects two handles that clasp together. Squeezing the handles opens the grippers, which usually have plastic or rubber tips. Like a giant clip, the light pressure suits smaller craft projects.



BENCH VICE An essential piece of kit for holding objects firmly while cutting or grinding. To use, wind the handle to move the jaw towards the body, which is secured to the workbench. ♦

FROM TOP Irwin 'Record' 200mm **G clamp**, \$29.48, I/N: 5862255. Crafteright 300mm **quick action clamp**, \$9.95/pack of 2, I/N: 5860150. Crafteright 900mm T-bar **sash clamp**, \$34.98, I/N: 5860168. Trojan 75mm **spring clamp**, \$5.58, I/N: 0319717. Stanley multi angle hobby **vice**, \$58.90, I/N: 5860190. Some products are not available at all Bunnings stores, but may be ordered.

Bursting with Scent

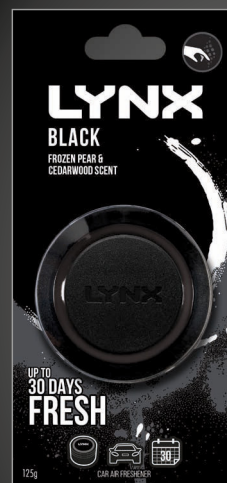


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EXPERT TRICKS
+ TOP PRODUCTS
+ DIY MUD
ROOM

Your guide to a sparkling-fresh home

PART 2

SUMMER FRESH

KICK OFF THE SCHOOL YEAR WITH VALUABLE
HOME WORK: A THREE-ROOM DEEP CLEAN
TO BRING ORDER AND CLARITY

Words KYLIE JACKES



A whole house clean may seem overwhelming. However, if you narrow your focus and stick to one manageable area at a time, the satisfying results can inspire a room-by-room blitz. Arm yourself with tried-and-tested techniques and expert tips to declutter, cleanse and reinvigorate three high-use zones.

Laundry

Machine clean Although it's a utility room, don't underestimate the feel-good effects of giving the laundry a spruce-up. Sally Jongejan of Nest Home services (nestcleaningbrisbane.com.au) suggests giving the washing machine and dryer a thorough wipe inside, removing dryer lint and running the washer on a drum clean cycle with a disinfectant. Try a product that cleans, descales and deodorises.

Shift work Enlist a second set of hands to help move the washing machine and dryer, so you can clean behind them and down the sides with a vacuum cleaner and crevice tool.

Clear it An often neglected area is the cupboard under the laundry sink. Rita Dossis of Maid In Melbourne (maidinmelbourne.com) recommends taking everything out, wiping shelves and replacing items neatly. "You'll be surprised what you find and what you've forgotten you have," she says. Keep a neat and organised system by grouping items in storage containers.

Odour out The laundry can become humid, so whenever possible keep doors and windows open to enhance ventilation and place moisture absorbers around the room to help prevent mould and odours. ►

"A good habit is to leave the washer and dryer doors open, as well as the detergent dispenser, so they can get plenty of air"
Sally Jongejan, Nest Home Services



For efficiency, equip a compact laundry with maximum storage and practical additions

AROMA THERAPY

If your washing machine smells a bit musty, add a quarter cup each of bicarbonate of soda and water to the detergent dispenser and pour 2 cups of vinegar into the drum. Run the hottest wash cycle and, once finished, wipe out the drum and dispenser drawer. Be aware that while cleaning vinegar can be effective on some odours, over time it may cause damage to rubber seals and hoses in the machine, so make sure you don't use it too often.



Pot plants in a bathroom add living colour – and can help to reduce humidity by absorbing moisture from the air

Bathroom

Break the mould Mould can thrive in humid conditions like in bathrooms and the best defence is regular cleaning. Spot-clean surface mould with either one part bleach to four parts water; or nine parts vinegar to one part water. For persistent mould, Sally Jongejan recommends killing the spores with oil of cloves: wear a mask and gloves to dilute half a teaspoon

of oil of cloves in a litre of water, spray on the mouldy surface, leave for 20 minutes, then wipe off with a clean damp cloth*. Repeat if necessary.

Scum stoppers To remove soap scum on shower screens, Rita Dossis suggests using a little dishwashing detergent on a non-scratch sponge. "Then rinse and wipe over with a glass

microfibre cloth," Rita says. "A good glass microfibre cloth is also the best tool for cleaning mirrors."

On the tiles Wipe over tiles and vanity tops with an all-purpose bathroom spray and get into grout grooves with a specialised scrubbing brush. To treat discolouration, consider using a grout-whitening product. ▶

Photography Gap Interiors/Colin Poole. Some photographs feature products from suppliers other than Bunnings. *Oil of cloves may cause skin irritation and can discolour surfaces.



Now that's HI-VIS!



Tired of compromising on laundry results?

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OMO Professional delivers first class cleanliness every time.



Also available in Sensitive Formula

Ventilation – via an open window, skylight or exhaust fan – will help to keep a bathroom fresh



FRESH SCENT

A lovely fragrance will enhance a clean-home feel. Sally Jongejan suggests adding candles and reed diffusers to rooms or consider creating your own room spritz with your favourite essential oils. "A regular mop of floors with a few drops of eucalyptus oil will also keep key areas like bathrooms and laundries smelling fresh," she says.

"Make sure you use a good scrubbing brush and elbow grease to clean your grout"

Rita Dossis, Maid in Melbourne

Polish it off "To target the base of taps and clean drain holes, use an old toothbrush with a little bit of Jif," recommends Rita Dossis. Follow with a buff using a microfibre cloth. To help keep drains flowing freely, sprinkle a few tablespoons of bicarbonate of soda down the sink, followed by a cup of vinegar. Leave for a few minutes then flush with boiling water.

Toilet training Don gloves and set to work on a thorough interior and exterior toilet clean. First, remove any toilet fresheners hanging on the side of the bowl, then pour in a product such as White King Toilet Cleaner. "Use a toilet brush to scrub down in and under the water as far into the S-bend as possible," says Rita. "Let the cleaning solution sit for a moment while you clean the outside and back of the toilet, including the rim and under and over the seat with disinfectant." Finish with a thorough wipe of the cistern and behind the toilet where dust collects. Flush and add a cleaning block for a fresh scent.

Finishing touches To reduce clutter, clean out bath and shower caddies and niches, then restock with just the essentials. Refill soap dispensers and add vanity appeal with a new hand towel and a pretty potted plant. ▶



Bathroom breakthroughs

No-one wants to spend all day cleaning. Use Vileda's versatile range of products to get your house spotless, pronto

Are you in a hurry to get your bathroom sparkling clean for guests? Spend less time scrubbing and more time enjoying the last of the summer rays with Vileda's quality cleaning products. The brand's innovative sponges, scourers, cloths, gloves and easy-to-use tools will have your home immaculate in minutes.

CLEANING MADE EASY

Cleaning a shower or bath is always an awkward manoeuvre. Thankfully, the **Vileda Bath Magic System** is here to help, reducing the need for bending and stretching with its angular non-scratch scourer, 360-degree swivel head and

extendable handle. This one-stop tool is perfect for cleaning hard-to-reach corners of baths and showers, and the removable, non-scratch scourer can be reused and eventually replaced with a **Vileda Bath Magic Refill**.

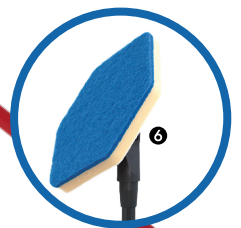
WIPING BUDDIES

When you're cleaning basins and delicate vanity tops, you need versatile, non-scratch yet effective tools that help reduce the need for hard scrubbing. The **Vileda Pur Active Flat Scourer** is a unique sponge scourer with a Teflon-safe wave structure that removes stubborn dirt and stains without scratching. Durable and

flexible, this extra-thin scourer can also be used on kitchen countertops and non-stick pans. Another must-have in your cleaning kit is a pack of **Wettex Wet Sponge Cloths**. These soft, absorbent cloths will leave surfaces shining and streak free. The Swedish-made cloths are super sustainable – reusable, 100% compostable and made from renewable materials. Once you have washed away any dirt or limescale, nothing dries and polishes tapware, basins and shower screens better than a microfibre cloth to leave your bathroom sparkling clean. **Vileda Microfibre Colours** have a choice of colours for your every need.

CUPBOARD STAPLE

Need to do a quick spruce-up before visitors arrive? Throw on a pair of **Vileda Ansell Rainbow Nitrile Gloves** to protect your hands from cleaning products and grime. These latex-free, non-powdered disposable gloves are an affordable, colourful essential to have on hand.



Facebook: @ViledaAustralia
Instagram: @vileda_australia

1 Vileda Ansell 'Rainbow' medium/large nitrile gloves, \$16.99/pack of 80, I/N: 0469600. **2** Wettex wet sponge cloths, \$4.99/pack of 3, I/N: 0469591. **3** Vileda 'Pur Active' non-scratch flat scourers, \$4.99/pack of 2, I/N: 0469597. **4** Vileda 'Colours' microfibre cloths, \$12.89/pack of 8, I/N: 0065913. **5** Vileda 'Bath Magic' bath cleaning system, \$19.79, I/N: 0379447. **6** Vileda 'Bath Magic' bath cleaning system refill, \$9, I/N: 0379445.



Some products are not available at all Bunnings stores, but may be ordered. Keep all cleaning products out of the reach of children and pets.

vileda



scraper. Follow with a wipe out of the interior, clear out the drip tray and, to minimise odours from future cooks, add some Fatsorb to the tray base. Give the exterior a wipe to remove grease and grime and add a cover until your next cook.

Screen saver Flyscreens do a great job of blocking insects, yet also trap plenty of dust. If your screens are easily removable, pop them out and put them on the grass for a gentle brush down and hose off. Leave to dry before reinstalling. For permanently fixed screens, close the window and hose them from the outside, then wipe down from indoors using a damp microfibre cloth. Teamed with a window clean, your view will improve out of sight. ▶

UNDER PRESSURE

Here's a rewarding outdoor job: wield the wand of a pressure cleaner and see the instant transformative effects as it lifts and shifts grime from paths, driveways and exterior walls with ease. Not only fast and effective, pressure cleaning can also be a waterwise alternative to hosing. Models like the Karcher K4 'Premium' pressure washer use 7L per minute, while a standard garden hose uses 25L per minute.

Outdoors

Entry level As first impressions are made at the front door, Rita Dossis suggests devoting time to an entry spruce-up. "Shake out mats, remove spider webs, clean light fittings of dust and insects and wipe over the door," she says. Enhance appeal with new or upsized potted plants.

Furniture freshen Extend the longevity of outdoor furniture with a little TLC. Give tables and furniture frames a thorough wipe and pop machine-washable couch and cushion covers in the wash (check care instructions first). A good technique to clean poly rattan furniture is to start with

a soft brush over to loosen dust from crevices, then vacuum. Follow with a wipe using a diluted mix of washing up detergent and water, rinse with a gentle garden hose spray and leave in the sun to dry. To keep outdoor pieces clean, cover when not in use.

Blow out A quick blast of a leaf blower is a fast and satisfying way to banish leaf debris, dust and cobwebs from outdoor areas like decks, verandahs and paths. Aim leaf litter into a pile for easy collection and disposal.

Scrub up The barbecue often gets a workout over summer so maintain its cooking prowess with an all-over clean. Remove plates and grates and scrub in warm soapy water using a cleaning tool with a stiff brush and



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1 Jif 'Professional' cream cleanser in Lemon, \$11/1.5L, I/N: 0298420. 2 Jumbuck barbecue cleaning wipes, \$7.95/pack of 40, I/N: 0110320. 3 DampFree moisture absorber slimline refill sachets, \$7.98/pack of 3, I/N: 0011484. 4 Selley's grout stain whitener, \$14.69/280g, I/N: 4460456. 5 Absodry moisture absorber in Green, \$35, I/N: 0489683. 6 Jumbuck 3-in-1 long nylon barbecue cleaning tool/grill brush, \$5.75, I/N: 0262749. 7 Sabco 'Bulldozer' complete angle window washer, \$14.89, I/N: 0163626. 8 Glitz Green eucalyptus oil, \$15.59/250ml, I/N: 4460484. 9 Sabco soft grip grout brush, \$4.79, I/N: 4480053. 10 Selley's 'White For Life' tile and grout cleaner, \$19.15/750g, I/N: 6650373. 11 Bref 'Purple Active' power toilet cleaner block in Lavender, \$8.49/pack of 3, I/N: 0525018. 12 Morgan kitchen, bathroom, glass and dust cleaning cloths, \$3.50/pack of 4, I/N: 4460737. 13 Sabco non scratch silicone scrubbing sponges, \$5.99/pack of 3, I/N: 0198156. 14 White King ready to use bleach spray, \$5.99/750ml, I/N: 0453376. 15 Fatsorb barbecue fat absorber cleaning agent, \$5.48/2L, I/N: 3181021. 16 Karcher 'K4 Premium' power control high pressure washer, \$549, I/N: 0362056. Some products are not available at all Bunnings stores, but may be ordered. ◆

Follow manufacturer's instructions for accurate dilution of strong cleaning solutions. Wear a mask and gloves for serious cleaning tasks. Store cleaning products out of reach of children and pets.

Cold Power

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first time



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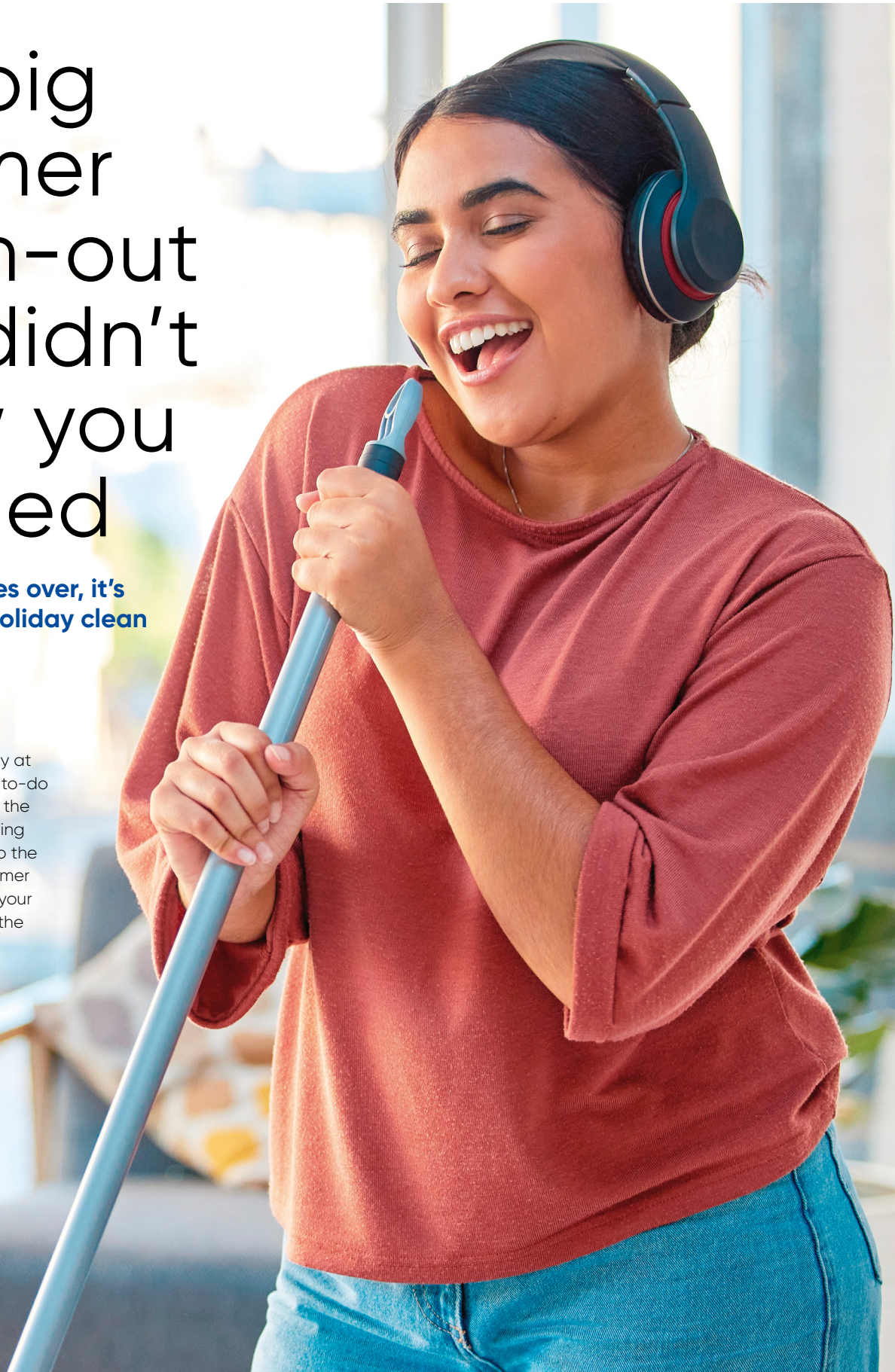
Stained it?
Sard it.



The big summer clean-out you didn't know you needed

With the festivities over, it's time for a post-holiday clean

Cleaning is generally at the bottom of our to-do list as we enjoy all the fun that summer entertaining brings. But February is also the perfect time for a big summer clean-out – to help keep your house spick and span for the year ahead!





KITCHEN DEGREASE DELIGHT

The kitchen can dish out some of the toughest cleaning jobs in the home and, after the entertaining season, a deep clean is just what it needs. Opt for a product that does the heavy lifting for you, by tackling baked-on grease without harsh scrubbing or scraping. **Easy Off Oven Heavy Duty Oven and Barbecue Cleaner** tackles the dreaded greasy oven and barbecue to leave them sparkling clean. Just be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions and wear suitable protection at all times.

1 Easy Off Oven heavy duty oven and barbecue cleaner, \$5.50/352g, I/N: 0444586. **2** Easy Off Drain turbo gel drain cleaner, \$14.98/1L, I/N: 0444579. **3** Finish 'Powerball Quantum Essential' dishwasher tablets, \$36/pack of 90, I/N: 0444576.

Drains are often ignored until they become blocked by grease, hair, soap and dirt. **Easy Off Drain Turbo Gel** starts to power through clogs in five minutes* and eliminates bad-smelling odours.

Entertaining friends and family can be a joyous time, but the inevitable clean-up afterwards can be painful. So why not stop wasting time (and water) pre-rinsing dishes and pick up **Finish Powerball Quantum Essential Dishwasher Tablets** – you don't need to worry about a pre-rinse and it gives you a deep clean.

DISINFECT FOR PEACE OF MIND

Cleaning can make you feel as though you're chasing your tail. Use products that go the distance and give you an amazing clean. **Pine O Clean Eucalyptus Disinfectant** is a hospital-grade disinfectant that kills up to 99.9% of germs/ bacteria and viruses**. Use it on floors, in the bathroom or in the kitchen, keeping the entire home fresh and clean.

4 Pine O Clean eucalyptus hospital grade multipurpose liquid disinfectant, \$17.98/5L, I/N: 0444582.



Always read the label and follow the directions for use.



DON'T BE AFRAID OF STAINS

Did a game of backyard cricket leave a grass stain that just won't budge? Or is there a mark on that beautiful white tablecloth from a kids' party that simply will not wash out? **Vanish NapiSan OxiAction Stain Remover** lifts tough stains even in a cold wash, while keeping your clothes looking bright. ▶

5 Vanish NapiSan 'OxiAction' fabric stain remover powder, \$22/3kg, I/N: 0444578.

Some products are not available at all Bunnings stores, but may be ordered. Keep all cleaning products out of the reach of children and pets. *Best results with fresh product on bathroom drain clog. **Germs/bacteria: E. coli, S. aureus; viruses: Covid-19 Virus, Influenza A (H1N1) Virus, Poliovirus, Herpes Simplex Virus Type 1.

Sparkling surfaces
are within reach
with hardworking
cleaning products



Always read the label and follow the directions for use.
Wear a mask and gloves for serious cleaning tasks.

BATHROOM BLAST

Deep bathroom cleaning doesn't have to mean hours spent scrubbing and rinsing. Hardworking products will tackle the problem for you. For pesky mould that creeps up in showers and bathrooms, **Exit Mould** attacks it at the source and kills the germs in 30 seconds.

Harpic White & Shine Toilet Cleaner uses hospital grade disinfectant for a thorough clean and sparkling bowl.

- 6** Exit Mould mould and stain cleaner spray, \$9.50/500ml, I/N: 0444581.
7 Harpic 'White & Shine' toilet cleaner, \$3.49/450ml, I/N: 0358942.

DUST AND POLISH

Dusting is a chore that is often avoided, as it feels impossible to keep on top of it. Luckily, **Mr Sheen Original Multi-Surface Polish** cleans and protects your home with advanced dust trap technology. Plus, you can now pick up **Brasso Polish** and **Silvo Polish** to restore and buff for an instant shine on metal surfaces. ◆

- 8** Mr Sheen original multi-surface polish, \$11/400g, I/N: 0444585. **9** Brasso metal polish, \$13.80/250ml, I/N: 4465767. **10** Silvo silver polish, \$13.80/250ml, I/N: 4465775.

Discover the wide range of
cleaning products in store.

Some products are not available at all Bunnings stores, but may be ordered. Keep all cleaning products out of the reach of children and pets.



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LOOKING
BRIGHT THIS
SUMMER.**

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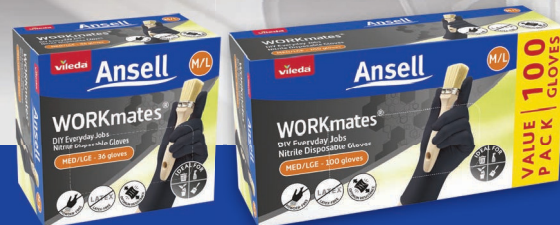
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STORE IT AWAY

TURN CHAOS INTO ORDER WITH A CUSTOM DROP-AND-SORT ZONE

Project, photography and styling SARAH WIMBERLEY



ABOVE Easycraft 'easyVJ100' 2400mm x 1200mm x 9mm primed general purpose **wall lining**, \$90, I/N: 0330364*, painted with Dulux 'Aquanamel' semi gloss interior **paint** in Casper White Quarter, \$41.50/500ml, I/N: 0280040. Mojo 'Marrakesh' 45cm **cushions** in Blue and White, \$27.72 each, I/N: 0285775. All other products, stylist's own. Some products are not available at all Bunnings stores, but may be ordered.

A garage can be so much more than a place to keep the car, especially when it doubles as a regular entry into the home. This busy household developed a dump zone in the garage for this very reason, so Bunnings Workshop community member Sarah (@House vsSarah) decided to turn her clutter hotspot into an asset to family life.

Mismatched shelving was replaced with custom storage designed to keep shoes, sports gear, school bags and tools well organised and easily accessible. Planned to meet the needs of the family, the design incorporates a combination of flatpack products – drawer, shelf and cube units – but can be adapted to suit any space. Sarah's decorative additions shift the mud room from functional to fabulous. ▶

Paint colours may vary on application. *Wall linings vary by state and territory with limited stock available; contact your local store for further information.



Before

BELOW Flexi Storage 'Clever Cube' 1 x 4 storage units, \$89 each, I/N: 2583386, 4 drawer 3 shelf wardrobe units, \$356.68 each, I/N: 2583986, and 6 shelf wardrobe units, \$256.33 each, I/N: 2583988, all in White. All other products, stylist's own. Some products are not available at all Bunnings stores, but may be ordered.



Design it

The very first step is to measure the space to determine the dimensions of your mud room, making sure to allow clearance for the garage roller door and factor in access when the car is in residence. Sketch the design and recheck your measurements. The dimensions of this mudroom are 4000mm x 2200mm x 540mm, comprising off-the-shelf Flexi Storage wardrobe shelving and drawer units, plus two one-by-four cube units. This design was symmetrical, but you can add or subtract units to suit your area.

Build it

The next step is to assemble the flatpack units, position them in their final location and check they fit. Here, a plywood base was added to each pair of shelf and drawer units, then the adjustable legs secured underneath. They are positioned either side of a cube unit, also on legs. After checking for level and adjusting all legs as needed, the units were attached to the wall with the supplied L brackets.

Lengths of structural pine were fixed to the top bridging cube unit with overhang either end, so they could be secured to the side units. To dress the assembly, skirting was added to the base and cornice to the top as trim, cut with mitred ends and secured with nails. Easycraft VJ panelling was cut to fit the central area and a length of pine added for robe hooks. All nail and screw holes were filled, as well as gaps between the trim and cabinetry.

To finish, the pre-primed trim and wall panelling, and the pine rail, were all painted with Dulux Aquanamel in Casper White Quarter.

Style it

The final step is to bring charm to your utility area with stylish inclusions. Sarah chose brass drawer pulls and hooks to add a subtle touch of glam, while woven baskets offer attractive storage and decorative items like vases elevate the look. Cushions and a throw turn the base cube unit into an inviting spot to sit and remove shoes and muddy boots. ♦



GLORIOUS MUD

Go to bunnings.com.au/flexi-storage-mud-room to see more of this project, and other clever mud room builds and upcycles. Visit workshop.bunnings.com.au for lots of inspiring DIYs.

Lifestyle creative Geneva loves mixing it up with Eco Turtles Cleaning solutions

Advertising promotion



Geneva Vanderzeil's Go-to for a greener clean

Get your home sparkling (and help protect our planet) with Eco Turtles Cleaning

Make the daily chore of cleaning much more satisfying, by mixing your own household products from naturally derived ingredients.

REFILLS, NOT LANDFILLS

Reduce your contribution to landfill – stop throwing out single-use plastic detergent packaging! **Eco Turtles Cleaning tablets** are a great way to reuse spray bottles, and take up less storage space in your cupboards.

JUST ADD WATER

It's as simple as this: fill your **Eco Turtles Cleaning reusable spray bottle** with 750ml tap water, drop in the tablet, let it bubble until dissolved, then screw on the nozzle and get cleaning! I think it works just as well as conventional products, but without the harmful ingredients.

NON-TOXIC IS THE WAY TO GO

The ingredients in Eco Turtles Cleaning tablets are biodegradable, pet-friendly, vegan and cruelty-free, and have been carefully selected to avoid known allergens to help us lead healthier lives.

CERTIFIED FABULOUS

Eco Turtles Cleaning is Australia's only cleaning tablet that is **Ecocert certified**. Ecocert is globally recognised as the premium standard for ethical sourcing and manufacturing, and is an international organic and ecological benchmark that highlights the best environmentally friendly and socially conscious practices. That's definitely a win in my home!



1 Eco Turtles Cleaning 'Degreaser' **single tablet refill pack**, \$5.50, I/N: 0369441. **2** Eco Turtles Cleaning 'Degreaser' **reusable spray bottle and 2 tablets starter pack**, \$998, I/N: 0442872. **3** Eco Turtles Cleaning 'Bathroom' **single tablet refill pack**, \$5.50, I/N: 0369434. **4** Eco Turtles Cleaning 'Bathroom' **reusable spray bottle and 2 tablets starter pack**, \$998, I/N: 0442896. **5** Eco Turtles Cleaning 'Multipurpose' **single tablet refill pack**, \$5.50, I/N: 0369436. **6** Eco Turtles Cleaning 'Multipurpose' **reusable spray bottle and 2 tablets starter pack**, \$998, I/N: 0442895.

Some products are not available at all Bunnings stores, but may be ordered. Keep all cleaning products out of the reach of children and pets.

Peerless JAL products are the professionals' choice for efficient and effective cleaning. Make them yours, too!

Before After



STREAK FREE FLOORS

Floors need a professional-grade product that's tough enough to tackle grease and grime, yet gentle enough to work on virtually any hard surface, such as tiles, laminate and polished wood. **Peerless JAL Versadet Neutral Floor Cleaner** is versatile and pH neutral, with a streak- and residue-free finish. It comes in a rich concentrate – a one-litre bottle can make 80 litres of cleaner – so as well as a thorough clean, you get bang for your buck.



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ECO EFFICIENCY

Powerful cleaning needn't mean a harsh impact on the environment. Peerless JAL's Ecoaid products are septic safe and independently recognised as environmentally sound*. Use the **Peerless JAL Ecoaid Bathroom Cleaner** to tackle bathrooms and the **Peerless JAL Ecoaid General All Purpose Cleaner** to banish grease and dirt on surfaces all round your home. Both are super-concentrated – one litre makes 33 litres of cleaner – so a little goes a long way, making them kind to your wallet and the earth.

Cleaning products the professionals use

We all want to clean our homes quickly and easily. Turn to Peerless JAL, whose Australian-made cleaning range is the go-to for professionals. Here's our pick of the collection for a spotless result in all the tough places.

BATHROOM BUILD-UP – GONE!

Make your shower sparkle with **Peerless JAL One Shot Thick Toilet Bowl Cleaner** (yes, it's for the loo, too). It cuts effortlessly through limescale, grime and calcium build-up on your shower screen and tiles for a deep and thorough clean.

To maintain your gleaming surfaces, use **Peerless JAL Clean and Bead Bathroom Cleaner**. The clever formula prevents calcium build-up and it even reduces fogging and streaks on glass.

As a bonus, you can also use it on baths, basins and toilets.



- 1** Peerless JAL 'Clean and Bead' bathroom cleaner and water repellent, \$12.99/750ml, I/N: 0345013. **2** Peerless JAL 'One Shot' thick concentrated acidic toilet bowl cleaner, \$13.99/1L, I/N: 4460463. **3** Peerless JAL 'Versadet' neutral floor cleaner concentrate, \$14.89/1L, I/N: 4466218. **4** Peerless JAL 'Ecoaid' bathroom cleaner concentrate, \$17.80/1L, I/N: 0345016. **5** Peerless JAL 'Ecoaid' general all purpose cleaner concentrate, \$13/1L, I/N: 0345018.



Scan the QR code or visit bunnings.com.au/peerless-jal for more information.



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STAINS, BE GONE!

DISCOVER THE BEST TECHNIQUES TO TACKLE
COMMON CULPRITS, FROM CHOCOLATE AND
COFFEE TO GRASS AND GREASE

Words *SHELLEY TUSTIN*

Beetroot splashed on your favourite shirt? Tea tipped on your best tablecloth? We've all been there – life can get messy. But with a little stain removal knowledge and some handy household supplies and cleaning products, you'll be able to deal with the most challenging food stains and stubborn marks your family and life can throw at you. Here we share expert tips, tricks and know-how so you can tackle spills and splatters with confidence. ▶



Bring your whites back
to their former glory with
a bit of laundry love

Act immediately

The best general advice for shifting stains is to act fast – start the process of stain removal straightaway before it has time to set into the fabric. But first, always check the fabric's care instructions. If the item is labelled 'dry clean only', blot the stain, then take it to the professionals.

Keep a general purpose stain-remover spray, stick or powder readily at hand – there are loads of fabric cleaners and stain-removal products to choose from. Test the stain-remover on an inconspicuous spot (such as the seam allowance inside the garment) before using it on the stain. Otherwise, as Carmen Strong of Little Strong Home (@littlestronghome and @strongcleaningco) suggests: "You'll be surprised by what equal parts dishwashing liquid, vinegar and warm water can do."

Hot or cold water?

Some stains respond better to hot water, while others are best doused in cold water – and cleaning lore goes that choosing the wrong one can set the stain for good! The first thing to do is get the stain soaking before it dries and the stain is set. Use cold water for blood, grass and most food stains to help loosen the marks without 'cooking' it into the material, while also protecting the fabric. Warm or hot water is better for grease, oil and sweat stains.

Grease and oil change

Professional cleaner and international author Beth McGee says anything greasy can usually be removed by

rubbing in a grease-cutting dish soap with a toothbrush*. "Do the same on the underside of the stain where the grease settles," she says. "Let it sit for a bit to do its magic, then rinse with warm water and wash normally. Be sure to air dry rather than put in the dryer until you know the stain is gone. If it's not, repeat the process until it is."

If you're looking for a specific product to target grease stains, try Mom's Goop, which was originally released in the United States in 1949 as a hand cleaner for mechanics – so you know it will be effective at busting oily grime!

Red food regrets

The day you wear that crisp white shirt to your next family barbecue is sure to be the day you spill on it – and there's nothing worse than red food stains from culprits like tomato and beetroot. For both of these, pre-treat with white vinegar, which will help break down the stain. Leave for five minutes, then rinse well so the acid doesn't damage the fabric. Wash as usual. Check before drying and if the stain is still visible, use an oxygen bleach product.

Beverage busters

Get straight onto tea and coffee stains with cool water. This alone might do the trick but, if not, pre-treat with a stain remover spray and wash as usual. For red wine stains, rinse in cold water, then cover with white vinegar and a dash of dishwashing soap. The vinegar will help neutralise the red and purple pigments in the wine stain. Keep blotting to help lift the stain, then rinse and wash.

THINK TWICE

Not all stains are created equal – some stubborn marks may require a repeat soaking and pre-treatment to help lift the stain. Before you put the item on the washing line (or in the dryer), check if the stain has been removed. If it's still there, you'll need to treat it again. Once the fabric is dry, it's much harder to achieve a successful stain removal.

Pillow perfection

Yellow stains on pillows are far from attractive – or healthy. The yellow colour is caused by sweat and other moisture from saliva, face creams and hair oil. As sweat stains are protein-based, try treating them with oxygen bleach, the active ingredient in products like Napisan Vanish OxiAction.

Best for blood

Look for a stain treatment with enzymes, which will help break down protein-based stains like blood. However, cleaning and organising expert Chantel Mila Ibbotson (@mama_mila_au) also recommends a commonly found household cleaning supply for effective bloodstain removal: cleaning vinegar. "Just cover the stain in cleaning vinegar and then wash as usual," she says. The acetic acids in white vinegar help break down bloodstains, making them easier to wash out. ▶

DOUBLE DUTY: BONUS USES FOR STAIN REMOVERS

Put your fail-safe stain-remover products to use outside the laundry with these unexpected cleaning ideas!

- **Grout:** mix a bucket of warm water with a scoop or two of Napisan Vanish, spread it over the floor tiles and scrub with a grout brush. Rinse thoroughly – and be careful of the slippery floors!
- **Hands:** use Mom's Goop on fingers greasy from a day in the workshop or coated in sap after gardening. Non-toxic and safe to use on hands, it cuts through sticky, difficult-to-remove messes on skin and fabric.
- **Outdoor furniture:** make a paste of Vanish and a little water and scrub it on with a soft brush. Great for

reviving furniture coated in dirt, mildew or bird poo. Follow with a coat of furniture oil on timber pieces.

- **Chewing gum:** not only can Mom's Goop get rid of gum on fabric, you can also safely use it to remove gum from hair! No more unscheduled haircuts...
- **Oven racks:** put racks in the bath (with towels underneath to avoid scratching the tub), add a scoop or two of Vanish and warm water, then leave for an hour. Then just rinse and wipe clean with a microfibre cloth.

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Fabric Conditioners

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*Circana Australia Grocery weighted scan YTD Nov 2023 value share (ex Aldi & AU pharmacy)

Fluffy **Cuddly**



1 Vanish Napisan 'OxiAction' fabric **stain remover powder**, \$22/3kg, I/N: 0444578. 2 Russell Hobbs 'Rapid Steam' **iron**, \$3793, I/N: 0477450. 3 Glitz Green **cleaning vinegar**, \$2.99/2L, I/N: 4460483. 4 Earl's 'Mom's Goop' laundry **stain remover**, \$19.95/473ml, I/N: 0443862. 5 3M ScotchBrite **pet hair lint roller**, \$8.49/56 sheets, I/N: 4470220. 6 Ezy Storage 'Sagano' foldable **laundry basket** in Grey, \$21.87, I/N: 0472641. 7 Multipurpose 9.3L plastic **bucket** with spout, \$0.99, I/N: 4461010. 8 Sard 'Oils & Grime' **stain remover spray**, \$7/420ml, I/N: 0477308. 9 Boxsweden 'Crystal' space saving **clothes hangers**, \$6.48/pack of 6, I/N: 0489715. 10 The Pink Stuff 'Laundry Oxi Powder' **stain remover** for colours, \$14.95/1kg, I/N: 0442840. 11 Sard 'Super Power' **stain remover powder**, \$15/1.85kg, I/N: 0477307. Some products are not available at all Bunnings stores, but may be ordered. ◆

Wear a mask and gloves for serious cleaning tasks and store cleaning products out of reach of children and pets.



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